

# Assessing the effect of swabbing practices on estimates of influenza vaccine effectiveness

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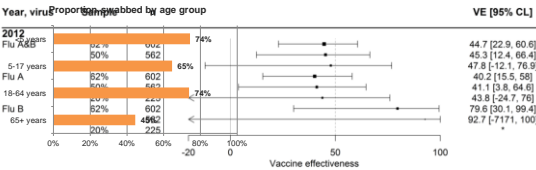
## Background

- Vaccine effectiveness (VE) is the preferred measure to monitor the success of the vaccination program each year
- The precision of VE estimates is dependent on:
  - Sampling of ILI presentations
    - Proportion of influenza positive overall
    - Proportion vaccinated overall
  - Total sample size
- In Victoria, the VicSPIN sentinel GP surveillance network monitors influenza-like illness (ILI)



## Aims and findings

- Perform a descriptive analysis to assess possible bias in the GP sampling methods
- Assess the impact of different swabbing rates on VE estimates



## Summary

- It would be beneficial for GPs to swab patients systematically by age group to circumvent discrepancies in age groups in future seasons
- Imposing a 20% or 50% swabbing rate produces less robust VE estimates
  - The number of swabs required per year to produce precise estimates should be dictated by seasonal severity

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