1. In this manuscript the authors use a decision analysis model to estimate the potential costs and benefits of in-hospital postpartum flu vaccination. Review the method of decision analysis. What are the benefits and drawbacks of this analytic method? Why would the authors select this method for analysis?

2. What assumptions are made in setting up the decision analysis? How are these selected? Are these assumptions easy and clear-cut, or are they based on opinion? Discuss the implications of the authors’ selection of assumptions.

3. The authors comment on their lack of precision with some parameter estimates, calling this “parameter uncertainty.” As examples, they describe the circulating flu virus strain variation from year to year, which accordingly changes the disease attack rate, vaccine efficacy, etc. How do they address these uncertainties? Review the options of sensitivity analyses or statistical approaches (eg, Delta method, Bayesian statistics, or bootstrap estimate).

4. The authors used sensitivity analyses (including one-way, two-way, and threshold sensitivity analysis) to deal with uncertainty. This is recommended by U.S. Public Health Service Task Force (Gold et al, eds. Cost-effectiveness in health and medicine. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 1996) and International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (Weinstein et al. Principles of good practice for decision analytic modeling in health-care evaluation: report of the ISPOR Task Force on Good Research Practices—Modeling Studies. Value Health. 2003; 6:9–17). Review these materials and this technique and discuss why these groups recommend this technique.

5. The objective of the study was “To estimate the potential economic benefits associated with hospital-based postpartum influenza vaccination.” The authors evaluate benefits from a societal and a third-party payor perspective. If you were designing this study, would you choose these same perspectives? Would you be interested in any other perspectives?

6. How is “cost-benefit” determined? What goes into the “cost” evaluation? Is it what is billed, or what is paid, or relative value units (RVUs), or something else?

7. In the methods, the authors state that all cost estimates were inflated to year 2010 U.S. dollars and discounted at a 3% annual discount rate. Why is this necessary, and is it important for the analysis?

8. The authors conclude that postpartum influenza vaccination is a cost-beneficial approach for prevention of maternal and infantile influenza from a societal perspective but not from a third-party payor perspective. Discuss why and if any of the “expert opinion” assumptions, were they different, would change their conclusion.

9. Do you typically vaccinate for influenza postpartum? Does your hospital have a policy for postpartum vaccination? If yes, review it; if not, should your hospital have one?

10. Will the findings from this analysis change your practice?