

advantage of the desperation of nations seeking supplies. Manufacturers should give nations seeking supplies a reasonable opportunity to make their needs known. Public and transparent calls for requests should be part of the process of deciding to whom and at what cost emergency release of vaccine will occur.

Countries seeking emergency release of a novel unlicensed vaccine must show that they have a plan for distributing vaccine in a fair, effective, and transparent manner. Nations must also certify that they will adequately monitor and report on the safety and effectiveness of any vaccine involved to the manufacturer, any oversight board, and appropriate governmental authorities, including WHO. Governments should assure that informed consent processes are robust and that voluntary choice is respected. It is unethical to mandate immunisation with vaccines that have not been fully tested in clinical trials that would normally accompany licensing. Governments should also have a robust plan for communicating about vaccines being made available under emergency circumstances to their populations.<sup>6,7</sup> Countries seeking emergency release should create a plan for handling any adverse events from vaccination.

These broad principles should provide a starting point for countries seeking unlicensed pandemic vaccine. More work must be done to further refine public health policy for emergencies.

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- 2 MSNBC. U.S. to share swine flu vaccine globally. Sept 17, 2009. [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32896769/ns/health-swine\\_flu](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32896769/ns/health-swine_flu) (accessed Sept 22, 2009).
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## Retraction—Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and pervasive developmental disorder in children



Following the judgment of the UK General Medical Council's Fitness to Practise Panel on Jan 28, 2010, it has become clear that several elements of the 1998 paper by Wakefield et al<sup>1</sup> are incorrect, contrary to the findings of an earlier investigation.<sup>2</sup> In particular, the claims in the original paper that children were "consecutively referred" and that investigations were "approved" by the local ethics committee have been

proven to be false. Therefore we fully retract this paper from the published record.

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- 1 Wakefield AJ, Murch SH, Anthony A, et al. Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and pervasive developmental disorder in children. *Lancet* 1998; **351**: 637-41.
- 2 Hodgson H. A statement by The Royal Free and University College Medical School and The Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust. *Lancet* 2004; **363**: 824.

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