Sir

Hawkes, Mulcair and Hourihane ought to have deleted the superfluous question mark from their paper: “Is hospital based MMR vaccination for children with egg allergy here to stay?” The issue of egg allergy and MMR vaccination has been grossly “eggsaggerated”. We audited the outcome of a “high-risk” immunization at CUH Temple St 2001-2004 and presented at the Irish Paediatric Association meeting (C Quinlan 2005). 111 children were immunized, 50 with MMR including 45 for egg allergy. The results: almost total silence—1 child with itch, 1 child with a few red spots. No returns, no recalls, no phone calls, no readmissions. The only children one might consider for hospital MMR are those with true egg anaphylaxis, or where inordinate levels of practitioner/parental anxiety persist. Hospital immunization will stay, but should be highly selective.

D Gill
Paediatrician, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

Reference