Reviewer's report

Title: The predictive value of mental health for long-term sickness absence: The Major Depression Inventory (MDI) and the Mental Health Inventory (MHI-5) compared

Version: 3 Date: 6 May 2013

Reviewer: Kaj Sparle Christensen

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? YES
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? YES
3. Are the data sound? ANALYSES ARE BASED ON 3713/9895 = 38% OF APPROACHED RANDOM SAMPLE, IMPORTANT ADJUSTMENTS HAVE BEEN PERFORMED IN ANALYSES
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE RECEIVER OPERATING CURVE STATISTICS FOR BOTH INSTRUMENTS IN ORDER TO EXAMINE THE OPTIMAL CUTPOINTS FOR RISK OF LONG-TERM SICKNESS ABSENCE
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? YES
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? NO, LIMITATIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE INFORMATIONBIAS NEED TO BE DISCUSSED
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? YES
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? YES
9. Is the writing acceptable? YES

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests