Reviewer’s report

Title: Gastrointestinal complaints and certified long-term sickness absence in the HUSK study.

Version: 1 Date: 23 February 2011

Reviewer: Paul Enck

Reviewer’s report:

I have a few minor essential revisions that need the attention of the authors:

a) I do not understand the sentence (p 8) "These 14 days serve as a "wash-out" period ", and I specifically do not understand how a 14-day period would prevent reverse causation, but a longer period would not.

b) The term "somatisation disorder" which has a specific meaning that may not be familiar to most gastroenterologists occurs on page 14 for the first time, although some of the features of it are discussed also in the introduction.

c) The sentence (on page 15) referring to animal work and inflammation is a bit "off label" - there are many more human studies that link stress to UC or CD.

d) In the Conclusion section, the sentence starting "The results ..." has an incorrect wording: it appears to me the authors would like to say that "... to explain work related outcomes of functional GI complaints" rather than "...work related functional outcomes ..."

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests