Reviewer's report

Title: Using intervention mapping (IM) to develop a self-management program for employees with a chronic disease in the Netherlands

Version: 6 Date: 25 January 2010

Reviewer: Ludovic van Amelsvoort

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Major Compulsory Revisions
I have one major issue regarding the manuscript and the described protocol, which concerns the mismatch between the overall goals of the study as described in the introduction and the abstract and the outcome measures, as described in the evaluation plan. That is, the abstract and introduction indicate that IM and self-management program is aimed at preventing sick leave and work disability (see abstract, background and results, main text: background, page 3 and 4). However, in the evaluation plan, the primary outcomes that are described are self-efficacy at work, intention to communicate etc. This mismatch between the objectives and the primary outcomes of the evaluation should be addressed because increased self-efficacy at work, intentions to communicate etc. might potentially also lead to an increased risk for sick leave or unemployment.

Discretionary Revisions
• The conclusion (page 21) is in my view to firm. As the manuscript did not provide any date on the feasibility of tailoring of preventive interventions in occupational health care, only the feasibility to apply the IM approach for the development of interventions. From the manuscript it does not become clear whether the tailoring is successful. Neither whether the described approach can be applied in occupational health care as the application as described is not applied in an occupational health care setting but in companies and family doctors.
• I would recommend a thorough check of the language by a native speaker as there are several small language errors.
• Also a more consequent use of terminology is needed. For example: Terms like “Illness”, “Disease” are mixed up several times throughout the manuscript.
• The paragraph at the end of page 3, start of page 4, starts with work disability and its determinants but later on it continues with determinants of maintaining employment or job loss. Although related, these two processes are not similar and have, at least partially, different determinants, especially in relationship with workers with a chronic disease.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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