Reviewer's report

Title: Are self-report of disability pension and long-term sickness absence accurate? Comparisons of self-reported interview data with national register data in a Swedish twin cohort

Version: 1 Date: 10 October 2010

Reviewer: Alex Burdorf

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

none

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Although addressed in the introduction, it is not entirely clear why MZ/DZ status would affect reporting of sickleave. It seems more a convenience sample that allows for a validity study of much larger size than ever before and, thus, the possibility to analyse important determinants of reporting validity, such as education, age and sex. Unfortunately, education and age were not investigated. This would add to our understanding.

2. The introduction refers to validity studies on sickness absence, with much short periods of absence than investigated in the current study. This should be mentioned.

3. It is not clear what time frames were used in the comparison of the questionnaire and register. Was date of filling out the questionnaire linked to the register and information retrieved for that date (or prior month etc)

4. I would prefer a clear statement in the text with reported and registered prevalence of DP and LTSA

5. The discussion should make clear that the LTSA was asked as point prevalence, whereas the debate on validity of self-reports is also on the acceptable period of recall. It should be noted that the current study has no recall bias and, thus, may have a better validity than previous reports who used 3 to 6 months recall periods.

Discretionary Revisions

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

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'