Author's response to reviews

Title: Symptom load and functional ability: Results from the Ullensaker Population Study

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Revision of manuscript: MS: 1570825767580335 ; entitled “Symptom load and functional status: Results from the Ullensaker Population Study”.

We thank you for the opportunity to further improve the manuscript. We have addressed each of Reviewer 1’s concerns below.

Minor essential revisions

1. The authors could easily list the BIC values in a last column of table 1.

The values have now been included.

2. The explorative findings on SES (also addressed by referee 2) reported in the cover letter on page 3-4 are highly interesting and should be mentioned in the discussion.

We have mentioned these preliminary findings which have now been included in the discussion as a topic for further research.

3. A major advantage of including number of symptoms instead of individual symptoms is that it yields a more parsimonious model which may be of major statistical relevance when smaller, e.g. clinical, populations are analyzed. This could be added to the discussion as well.

We have included this argument in the discussion.
Sincerely yours,

Dag Bruusgaard          Hedda Tschudi-Madsen