Author’s response to reviews

Title: Can work ability explain the social gradient in sickness absence: a cross-sectional study of a general working population in Sweden

Authors:

Jesper Löve (jesper.love@socmed.gu.se)
Kristina Holmgren (kristina.holmgren@neuro.gu.se)
Kjell Torén (kjell.toren@amm.gu.se)
Gunnel Hensing (gunnel.hensing@socmed.gu.se)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor:

Please consider the revised manuscript entitled ‘Can work ability explain the social gradient in sickness absence: a cross-sectional study of a general working population in Sweden’ for publication in the BMC Public Health. Please note that the paper is an original and has not been published previously and is not being considered for publication by any other journal.

We are pleased that the reviewer’s are satisfied with the first revision. Regarding the comment by Prof. Virtanen we agree that it may be inappropriate to use the word “incident”. Our usage of the concept was meant to illustrate that that we do not use prevalent cases of sick-leave. However, since it is understandable that this can be misinterpreted we have now excluded the word “incident” from the manuscript and the abstract. Instead we write “new cases of sick-leave” to illustrate that we do not use prevalent cases. Again, we thank the reviewers for their very valuable comments.

Thank you for your consideration of our revised manuscript. We look forward to your reply.

Best regards,

Jesper Löve