Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of alternative versions of the job demand-control scales in 17 European cohort studies: the IPD-Work consortium

Version: 1 Date: 12 October 2011

Reviewer: Kevin Daniels

Reviewer’s report:

Overall this is a paper that will be of interest to people trying to design comprehensive large scale surveys. It is technically fine as far as I can see and does not go beyond the data.

Discretionary revisions

I think readers would find it useful if the authors could provide a definitive statement on their minimum number of items recommended to produce scales with acceptable convergence with the full scales - in the current version this is not clear, but I think it is what readers will be looking for.

Minor essential revisions

I spotted a couple of grammatical errors - so another proof is required.

Abstract ‘Job strain .... is the most widely used’ and p 4, start of para 2 (‘The most widely used measure of work stress’) - I think these statements are a bit strong - perhaps you could ‘popular’ or ‘frequently used; instead of ‘most widely used’.

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.