Reviewers report

Title: Validation of sick leave measures: Self-reported sick leave and sickness benefit data from a Danish national register compared to multiple workplace-registered sick leave spells in a Danish municipality.

Version: 2 Date: 20 June 2012

Reviewer: Malin Josephson

Reviewer’s report:

The key message is that in studies of sickness absence it is significant how sickness absence is measured, with register, or if it is self-reported data and that the management of the sick-leave register is of high quality. The result underlines the importance of describing the data collection. I also draw the conclusion that the quality of the DREAM-data may vary between different employers. You have done a very good quality control of the IT-company and social service in Aarhus, that they do a good job except for pregnancy-related sick leave. The study also confirms the difficulties to remember number of sick-leave days if you are on sick-leave for a longer period. So OK, the study is of interest for researcher in this field, also for us outside Denmark.

One minor comment:

You have to correct the sentence in conclusion and abstract “Self-reported sick leave becomes more imprecise the longer work-place-registered total length per year.”

Otherwise, the manuscript is clear and it is a well-conducted study.

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