Reviewer's report

Title: Identifying factors relevant in the assessment of return-to-work efforts in employees on long-term sickness absence due to chronic low back pain: a focus group study

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Reviewer: Sylvia Vermeulen

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'Identifying factors relevant in the assessment of return-to-work efforts in employees on long-term sickness absence due to chronic low back pain: a focus group study'.

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This paper aims to identify factors relevant to RTW Effort Sufficiency in case of sick-listed employees with chronic low back pain. Focus groups were held with labour experts at the Dutch Social Insurance Institute to explore arguments and underlying grounds relevant to the assessment of efficiency of the RTW process, which is performed when the sick-listed employee applies for a long-term disability benefit. This study contributes to the need to gain more insight into factors related to an effective RTW process.

The authors have replied adequately to my comments. Adequate revisions are made in the manuscript.

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.