Reviewer’s report

Title: Short-term Sick Leave and Future Risk of Sickness Absence and Unemployment - the Impact of Health Status

Version: 2 Date: 15 March 2012

Reviewer: Thorne Wallman

Reviewer’s report:

major compulsory revisions
1) The author’s are asked to follow instruction for authors and put chapter “Methods” between Background and Results in the text, not after “Conclusion”.

2) Sick leave 1-14 days is based on self reported data, and sick leave > 14 days is based on “register data from the Swedish National Social Insurance Agency” (Methods/outcomes/first paragraph). Why divine the groups as you did? Why not using 1-14 days as “Low STSL” (to separate self reported data and >14 days register data)?

3) In Chapter “confounders”, “somatic disease” was asked whether the respondent had been diagnosed with the diagnoses “diabetes, angina pectoris, MI, heart failure or cerebral hemorrhage” Please explain why using those among others. What about other somatic diseases diagnosed by the health care? This weakness should be discussed in the discussion chapter.

minor essential revisions

As the instruction for authors states, abstract should be completed with the heading “Methods”.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests