Reviewer’s report

Title: Are environmental characteristics in the municipal eldercare, more closely associated with frequent short sick leave spells among employees than with total sick leave? A cross-sectional study.

Version: 2 Date: 15 May 2013

Reviewer: Velibor Peters

Reviewer’s report:

This reviewer thanks the authors for their attention to the comments. Except some minor remarks, the paper is sufficiently improved.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?

3. Are the data sound?

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?

The reliability of the scales to measure demands for hiding emotions (#=0.60), and role conflict (#=0.68) do not exceed the widely used 0.7 threshold (Nunnaly, 1978). The consequence of this moderate, low reliability of the scales used is not mentioned in the Strengths and limitations section.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?

9. Is the writing acceptable?

Yes, some minor remarks remain: Schaufeli instead of Scaufeli, # instead of #

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'