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: 13 May 2013

Reviewer: Martin Lindhardt L Nielsen

Reviewer’s report:

Comments to the revised manuscript:

I find the answers to the comments and the changes that has been made, fully acceptable.

A number of minor essential revisions have emerged.

When reading the revised manuscript, I find some small imprecisions like:
1) “affected of” instead of “affected by” (page 5),
2) “avilable” instead of “available” (table 2) and peculiar wordings like
3) “the strength of the association was weakened” (page 15) and
4) “maximum length and duration” (table 1).
5) In the revised tables, there is no explanation of the asterisk * in table 2.
6) In tables 3-5, the limit of dichotomising the exposure variables into favourable and unfavourable levels are given in different ways that are not easy to read. For the demand variables, no limits are given, for the next 6 variables it is stated: “(=< reference mean scores)”, which is hard to combine with the first column, that is the reference mean scores.

General health is included in tables 3-5, but not 1 and 2.

The footnote in table 5: “Wald-test for overall difference in work factor score between [absence] patterns”.

The answers to the standard questions from the editors have not changed, and I recommend the article to be published.

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.