Reviewer’s report

Title: Associations between number of sick-leave days and future all-cause and cause-specific mortality. A population-based cohort study

Version: 2  Date: 4 June 2014

Reviewer: Merel Schuring

Reviewer’s report:

General comments
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This well-written manuscript describes the results of a prospective cohort study with a long follow-up time of 11 years among 4.7 million women and men from the general population of working ages in Sweden. The results show a gradually higher all-cause and cause-specific mortality with increasing number of sick-leave days. High quality nationwide register data are used for both the exposure as well as the outcome measure. The limitations of the study are well accounted for in the discussion.

Revisions
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No major compulsory, minor essential or discretionary revisions are required

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