Reviewer's report

**Title:** Chronic disease risk factors, healthy days and medical claims in South African employees presenting for health risk screening

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 22 February 2008

**Reviewer:** Jantine Schuit

**Reviewer's report:**

The study is very nicely written and indeed provides information on clinical and lifestyle risk factors in the employed population and provides insight into differences between sectors.

**Major points**

However I have one major concern and that is that the response is only 26% (ranging from 4 to 81%), which really makes interpretation of the data hazardous. Reason for the low response maybe the fact that the wellness day was only advertised one week in advance.

A second important point is that in general the data are very descriptive and the authors do not make any correction for eg chronological age. (which is related to the health related age.)

Furthermore the concept or the calculation of health related age (or risk related age)is interesting but not clearly defined in the study. This should be added to the study.

**Minor points**

Table 5 shows the association between health related claims and self reported health. I miss the numbers of people included in the model (because I understand this concerns a subsample) and I also would expect that the authors would correct the analyses for e.g. age.

**What next?:** Reject because scientifically unsound

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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