Reviewer’s report

Title: Health problems and help-seeking in a nationwide sample of operational Norwegian ambulance personnel

Version: 1 Date: 8 October 2007

Reviewer: Karl-Axel Ångquist

Reviewer’s report:

General

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

- Ambulance service personnel is a heterogeneous group. Working as ambulance personnel in a big city is quite a different mission than working in the rural areas. If the paper is said to be a nationwide sample it has to be shown that it is representative for the whole country. That means concerning age, gender, working time in ambulance service, distribution not only over the country but also between rural and urban districts.

- There ought to be a difference between men and women not only that they are younger but also that they have a mean higher educational level and a shorter working period with ambulance service. This because the changing of the system in the same way as in Sweden. This ought to be discussed

- The response rate to the questionnaire (41%) is low. Why has it been impossible to get a higher figure.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

- Health problems in a national sample of ambulance personnel (Sweden) has been studied of Ulrika Aasa et al. (sleep problems, musculoskeletal pain etc.)

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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 below.