Reviewer's report

**Title:** Burden of morbidity in a patient perspective - the case of sick-leave certified patients in primary care

**Version:** 4 **Date:** 13 November 2008

**Reviewer:** Barbara Starfield

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper is greatly improved. Two additions would improve it, however.

1. Table 1 and Figure 1 are unclear as to whether the medical record diagnoses also include the secondary review. Please clarify in the title or footnote.

2. The last sentence under 'coding aspects' is inappropriate. I realize that another reviewer raised the issue of medicalisation, but the sentence is off the mark because there is no evidence that making diagnoses 'medicalises' problems; also the ACG system minimizes the problem of additional diagnoses by coding them into categories. I suggest re-wording the sentence as follows:

   The extent to which recording every diagnosis predisposes to medicalisation is unclear, but the ACG system minimizes the possibility by combining similar diagnoses into categories rather than counting them individually and adding them. Additionally, recording of any given diagnosis does not imply that any management strategies are instituted.

**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.