Reviewer's report

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

Version: 5 Date: 26 February 2009

Reviewer: Nils Fleten

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Re-review Burden of morbidity in an individual perspective – the case of sick-leave certified patients in primary care.

The suggested revisions are manly undertaken.

Resulting revision:

Ad 1.
"Very small differences could be seen in the comparison. One exception was the difference when comparing chapter XVIII regarding signs and symptoms, where the proportion of diagnoses was somewhat higher in the patient records than in the certificates."

According to Table 1, the difference is in ICD-10 Chapter V, Mental and behavioural disorders.

Ad 2.

We have changed this part as follows: "Different periods of the year have been chosen for data retrieval to reduce the impact of potential seasonal variations in the diagnosis' distribution. Our study is not intended to explore such impact, and our data are not sufficient to evaluate that aspect. When the previous diagnoses of each person are included they cover all times of the year."

The revision does not address the potential skewness, choosing half the inclusion time in July. This might be of importance in comparing one-year diagnoses to diagnoses in certificates, but of minor importance to the main aim of the paper. The last two periods might be unnecessary.

Ad 3.

We will include the following sentence into the discussion part: "The reimbursement system for PHC in Stockholm County Council requires the physician to code the diagnoses that were the main reasons for consultation."
A relevant revision.

Under Discussion, the last line under the heading The diagnose perspective - the word “other” should probably be replaced?

**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’