Author's response to reviews

Title: Chronic musculoskeletal pain predicted hospitalisation due to serious medical conditions in a 10 year follow up study

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Author's response to reviews:

Response to reviewer Allison M Elliot

Thank you for reviewing the paper and for valuable suggestions for improvement.

Changes done:

1. Additional information on differences between CRP and CWP is now given on page 5, paragraph 1.

2. Additional information on how baseline data were linked with register data is now given on page 6, paragraph 1, last sentence.

3-4. More results have now been added, and as suggested we did now also present analyses stratified on sex and age. These results are added on page 10 in the last two paragraphs and also in the new tables 3a-c. We have also added several sentences in the discussion, highlighting some of the differences found in these new analyses.

5. We have added a more formal acknowledgement on page 13, last paragraph, that the results suggest an association and not necessarily a causal relationship between chronic musculoskeletal pain and the medical conditions.

6. We have now also referred to the recently published paper suggested.

Response to reviewer Peter Croft

Thank you for reviewing the paper and for valuable suggestions for improvement.

Changes done and answers to the questions:

1. We have not been able to ascertain that the subjects were free from the conditions at baseline, since they could have moved in to the area or having the condition without need for hospital care. We have throughout the paper checked and changed so that we not suggest that this is reflecting the incidence of the conditions or that there is a causal relationship.
2. The results in tables were not stratified in the previous version, but full models. We have however taken the point from you and the other reviewer and done some analyses stratified on sex and age, with interesting results that we now present in the new tables 3a-c and in the last two paragraphs of the result section. We have also added some discussion relating to these results.

3. Corrections have been made in the language.