Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 1 June 2010

Reviewer: Peter R Croft

Reviewer's report:

The authors have taken on board the comments of the referees and this paper is now a good addition to the literature.

The one minor revision I suggest is as follows. In the discussion the authors now state clearly that they do not have the disease status of individuals at baseline and so the links between pain and subsequent hospitalisation are associations rather than causal links between the presence of pain and subsequent incident disease. I suggest they add a sentence along the lines of: "This also means that the chronic pain at baseline - CRP or CWP - might have been an expression or symptom of pre-existing disease, such as cardiovascular, which subsequently led to hospitalisation". This a rather different explanation to the main one offered by the authors - CWP representing vulnerability, which suggests a pre-existing risk for the disease - and is a more disease-based explanation, that a significant proportion of people with a chronic disease may have pain as part of it and the baseline survey may have come in on this when it was already well-established.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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