Reviewer's report

Title: Staying at work with back pain: patients' experiences of work-related help received from GPs and other clinicians. A qualitative study.

Version: 3 Date: 8 July 2010

Reviewer: Sarah Dean

Reviewer's report:

Staying at work with back pain: patients’ experiences of work-related help received from GPs and other clinicians. A qualitative study.

Thank you for asking me to re-review this paper. I am satisfied that the authors have addressed my previous feedback. I have four minor points to make concerning the revised manuscript.

1) Page 5 paragraph commencing ‘This office worker…’ refers to a male participant yet the preceding quote is from a female. Whilst it becomes clear that the male participant’s quote is given at the end of the paragraph it might be better to adjust the start of the sentence to avoid any confusion for the first time reader.

2) Page 12 line 15 the new text refers to ‘manual therapy’; should this be either ‘for manual therapy’ or ‘to manual therapists’?

3) P13 second sentence, the new text uses the term ‘ignorance’ and I question if this is the right term or whether the term needs further qualification, e.g. who's ignorance and about what? I think you mean that advice to stay at work is misconstrued by patients as they think this means clinicians do not fully appreciate / understand what it means to remain in their workplace with back pain.

4) Page 15, line 20. This whole article now captures some of the complexity of working and managing back pain; I would therefore recommend that the authors insert the word ‘complexity’ of issues mentioned in the last sentence of the discussion: ‘….our study does highlight the complexity of issues and ….’.

Thank you for considering these additional alterations and clarifications which I believe do not require further review.

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'