Reviewer's report

Title: Bio-psychosocial determinants of time lost from work following non life threatening acute orthopaedic trauma.

Version: 2 Date: 25 August 2009

Reviewer: Leena Mirjam Kaila-Kangas

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editors, here are my comments of the manuscript: "Bio-psychosocial determinants of time lost from work following non life threatening acute orthopaedic trauma" by Fiona J. Clay et al.

This is an interesting and well written paper of a very important, complicated and costly matter. This paper reveals that the determinants of sick leaves because of musculoskeletal injuries are associated not only with the injuries themselves but also with such modifiable factors as work-related and psychosocial matters.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes, it is well defined

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Cox Proportional Hazard regression analysis is the most appropriate method when the outcome is "time to first return to work within 6 months after injury" in the prospective study. I understood from the manuscript that the authors have worked with a statistician. The results seem to be coherent.

3. Are the data sound?
   Yes, it seems that the data represents people of working age, but only 33 % of them are women (?)

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes, this is a very clearly and well written paper.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   The discussion is very well written and interesting and conclusions are supported by the data.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   The biggest limitation is the small sample size but the analyses indicate that
there is enough data, however.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes they do.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Title is good and all important results are presented in the abstract.

9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes, it is very acceptable

With best Regards

Leena Kaila-Kangas, PhD, Specialized Researcher

**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.