Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 29 August 2009

Reviewer: Sari Ponzer

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. This is an interesting study. The main outcome measure used, return to work, is well chosen but limited by the fact that the date of return to work was unknown for some of the patients. Were any efforts made to validate the patients own statement of return to work?

2. This is a multi-centre study, which is strength. It is stated that the study hospitals were “selected to achieve a representative sample”. It would be important for the reader to know what the selection criteria were.

3. The sample size is rather small. It would be important to know the total population of eligible patients that the study sample was taken from? And how many patients were included at each hospital? How many were not reached and how many refused to participate? A flow chart regarding the patient inclusion would be helpful.

Discretionary Revisions

4. It would be interesting to have some data about the type of injuries, even if heterogeneous, in addition to information about the injury severity.

5. The SF-36 was used in this study, what was the reason for reporting only some of the items?

6. Were there any differences in the data regarding patients that returned full duties or modified duties?

7. It would be good to have a comment in the Discussion about the retrospective ratings used at inclusion.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests