Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of health promoting resources on work participation in population reporting musculoskeletal pain. A sample from the Nord-Trondelag Health Study, HUNT 3, Norway.

Version: 3 Date: 13 September 2012

Reviewer: Silje Endresen Reme

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors have changed the aim of the study according to my recommendations, but the same changes still need to be consistent throughout the article, e.g. in the abstract where it still reads the old way (both in the background and conclusion).

2. The article still needs substantial grammatical and linguistic improvements before it is suitable for publication. For example, when describing the survey questions with response options in the methods section, the official English wording should be used, and not only a direct translation from Norwegian as it now appears to be. Past and present tense is still used interchangeably and needs to be consistent throughout the paper, there are several grammatical and typo errors, and the whole manuscript itself still needs a bit of wordsmithing, preferably by a native English speaker, before it is acceptable for publication.

Discretionary Revisions

1. As one of the strongest predictors of work participation was self-rated health, you have to consider the possibility that this could actually be an accurate description of their health condition, especially since you did not control for other diagnoses. The sick leave could for instance have been caused by other health problems or diseases. Please consider including this reflection in your discussion.

2. I still don’t understand how MSP is a proxy for perceived work attitudes (second paragraph of the discussion), and I would recommend that you elaborate more to support the argument.

3. The second paragraph of the discussion overall is still not making sense to me, particularly the second sentence.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. I am assuming the authors included participants who reported moderate, strong OR very strong pain, not AND (e.g. in the methods section, second paragraph). Please consider changing.
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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