Author’s response to reviews

Title: Promoting work ability in a structured national rehabilitation program in patients with musculoskeletal disorders: outcomes and predictors in a prospective cohort

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Response to reviewers

Thank you for your comments on the manuscript. Below we have listed a point-by-point response to your questions, suggestions and concerns.

Reviewer I:

- Underlining under headings and abbreviations has been deleted.

- The title has been shortened and changed to: “Promoting work ability in a structured national rehabilitation program in patients with musculoskeletal disorders: outcomes and predictors in a prospective cohort study”.

- Since the title is changed, some keywords are retained. The new keywords: sick leave, musculoskeletal pain, multimodal rehabilitation, health related quality of life, function.

- Discussion, page 15. Some statistics are deleted and are changed to: “At MMR start, more than half of the patients had EQ-5D < 0.5…. (OR 0.6, CI 0.3-1.0, p = 0.061).”

Reviewer II:

1. Page 3. The missing word person, is inserted.

2. The manuscript is reviewed by an associate professor, fluent in English and familiar in publishing in English journals.

3. The meaning is clarified with: “In line with the intention of the intervention, patients receiving at least six treatments for a period of at least six weeks were included, which resulted in 637 patients.

4. Yes, those with full-time SLD are probably more likely to be report unemployed, but not necessarily. SLDP includes both sick leave and disability pension. Sick leave (SL) is a temporary economical compensation and disability pension (DP) can also be temporary.

5. Page 9. In Sweden, it is possible to get “sick leave in prevention” when a person takes part in rehabilitation, in order to prevent sick leave or to shorten a sick leave spell. The sentence is changed to: “At MMR start, 6.4 % of the whole group was on sick leave in prevention, as they were part of rehabilitation for purpose of preventing future sick leave or shortening an on-going sick leave spell”.
6. Page 12. In the section about work ability, the last sentence is about follow-up, previous results in this paragraph are about MMR start and completed MMR.

Language corrections have been undertaken.

**Amendment**

Table 2. A new improved version of table 2, is provided.

Best regards