Reviewer's report

Title: Agreement between a self-administered questionnaire on musculoskeletal disorders of the neck-shoulder region and a physical examination

Version: 3 Date: 7 February 2008

Reviewer: Alex Burdorf

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:

1. The term response rate is incorrect, especially in a cross-sectional study

2. The effect of time lag between questionnaire and medical investigation seems a powerful alternative explanation for the modest kappa values (especially for diseases such as MSDs of a highly episodic nature), than the remark on different constructs. This could be addressed in the abstract and conclusions

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'