Reviewer's report

Title: Sick-listed employees with severe medically unexplained physical symptoms: burden or routine for the occupational health physician? A cross-sectional study.

Version: 1 Date: 23 March 2010

Reviewer: Britt Arrelov

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions

References:
1. Reference number 9 is missing in the list

Subjects and methods:
2. How did you choose the participating OHP group practices?
3. I suggest that you move Characteristics of the sick-listed employees and OHPs, table 1 and 2 to result.

Result:
4. The first part of result belongs to study population
5. The sentence beginning with With regard...... change word from need to use

Discussion:
6. To long with repetitions.

Tables:
7. The tables are not possible to understand without reading the text in the article.
   Headings, Column headings need to be more distinct and explanatory. What is MUPS (table 1), PHQ 15+ etc.
8. Table 1. Last part with OHP attribution to symptoms etc. I don't understand this part of the table.
   Footnotes b and c- explanations is missing.
9. Table 2. Column heading: 1,2,3,3?,5, total
   Work experience total? mean?
10. Table 3. PHQ+ severe MUPS?, PHQ- change heading.
11. Table 4. same as table 3.

Discretionary revisions
The article would gain of a revision of the parts: subjects and methods and discussion.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.