Author's response to reviews

Title: GPs' experiences of working with sick leave after changes in the Swedish social security system, a qualitative focus group study

Authors:

Lars Carlsson (lars.carlsson@ltdalarna.se)
Linda Lännerström (linda.lannerstrom@pubcare.uu.se)
Thorne Wallman (thorne.wallman@pubcare.uu.se)
Inger K Holmström (inger.holmstrom@mdh.se)

Version: 2
Date: 22 May 2014

Author's response to reviews:

To the Editor 22 May 2014
BMC Family Practice

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a manuscript with the title "GPs' experiences of working with sick leave after changes in the Swedish social security system, a qualitative focus group study". Many physicians in Sweden and other countries find the matter of sick leave particularly burdensome. Issuing sick leave has also been perceived as a health and safety problem among physicians.

The authorities in Sweden have taken several initiatives to improve the rehabilitation of ill people and decrease sick leave days. Some are economic incentives for the county councils, while others are changes in rules and regulations.

The aim of this qualitative focus group discussion study was to describe how GPs in Sweden experience their work with sick leave after the changes in the social security system.

To our knowledge, this is the first qualitative study of how GPs in Sweden experience their work with sick leave after the changes in the social security system.

This study sheds new light on the work with sick leave after the changes in the Swedish social security system. Assigning sick leave is still perceived by Swedish GPs as a burdensome task. However, system changes in recent years have facilitated this work. Cooperation with other professionals regarding the sick leave cases is perceived positively. The results of this study has implication for both health professionals and patients in clinical practice and research.

The manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under
consideration for publication in any other journal. The final version of the manuscript has been seen and approved by the undersigned authors. All authors agree with its submission to BMC Public Health. We further confirm that all authors fulfil the requirements for authorship. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Please address all correspondence to: lars.carlsson@ltdalarna.se

Yours sincerely,

Lars Carlsson
Linda Lännerström
Thorne Wallman
Inger K Holmström