Reviewer’s report

Title: Effects of a vocational rehabilitation programme on return to work among sick-listed primary health care patients A population-based matched, case-control study

Version: 0 Date: 12 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions
PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:
The topic of this manuscript is relevant. The study was not primarily designed as a scientific study but the authors have made efforts to present their results according scientific criteria. Unfortunately, the study is a prospective population-based, matched case-control study and not a randomised controlled trial.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
The 170 patients in the high-risk group passed an examination and assessment of medical needs and workability by a multidisciplinary medical team. Please add information about the examination and workability assessment. What did this assessment include (questionnaire, physical and/or psychological examination), which method was used to perform the assessment of workability. It is very important to describe the content of the intervention. Which methods were used to ensure all patients received the same intervention? How did you registered the results and effects of the intervention?

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Methods: Please describe the content of the individual rehabilitation programmes. All interventions should be sufficient described. Results: compare your result with other similar international studies. Compare the content of your interventions with other studies. Discussion: make recommendations for future studies. Be specific, type study and interventions.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

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