Reviewer's report

Title: Trajectories of antidepressant medication use in individuals before and after being granted disability pension due to common mental disorders- a nationwide register-based study

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Reviewer: Sarah Dorrington

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper exploring an important question about the trajectories of AD use amongst patients on DP for CMD. The paper analyses a representative sample of patients with DP for CMD.

I have a few questions:

1) In the abstract you state that "suboptimal antidepressant medication before DP can be crucial in such DP". Could you cite any literature that suggests that optimal antidepressant use reduces DP, as opposed to reducing symptoms of depression and increasing productivity?

2) As you mention, some groups are less likely to access optimal AD doses, and there is inequality in access to specialist services. However, without knowing which additional treatments have been offered to these patients (eg anxiolytics, psychotherapy, occupational interventions) it is difficult to draw firm conclusions about sub optimal treatment.

3) Did CMD severity vary by trajectory? You comment on severity in the abstract but not in the text.

4) Your results suggest that the trajectories may partly reflect patients' social situations but you don't mention the role of employers in your discussion. For example, perhaps patients with higher educational attainment tend to have more employment security and are able to remain in work with more severe symptoms (and higher AD doses), to a later age, before requiring DP?
5) Did any participants return to work during the study period?

6) Did you include partial DP, or just full DP? If you included partial DP how did full time and partial DP vary in use across the trajectories?

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

Yes

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

Yes

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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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