Reviewer’s report

Title: Depressive symptoms and early retirement intentions among Danish Eldercare workers: Cross-sectional and longitudinal analyses

Version: 2 Date: 27 March 2015

Reviewer: Sabrina Pit

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper.

MAJOR
1. The paper requires some editing to improve the English grammar.
2. 900 (cross-sectional) and 415 (Prospective) participants did not know what they would do, why don't you include them in your analyses or show if they are similar to the other participants, if they are different and you excluded them, what impact may that have on the effect sizes? They make up a large proportion of your initial sample.
3. Can you please explain why exactly early retirement intentions at T1 was put in the prospective model, I find it hard to conceptualise what that means. I would expect that early retirement intentions 2 years apart would be highly correlated and be very similar, and would thus explain away any other effect such as depressive symptoms, if put into the model?
4. I believe that physical functioning or co-morbidities should be put in the model as they are important predictors of early retirement. Depression is often a co-morbidity with other diseases that may influence EVR.
5. Discuss the potential consequences of 37% no longer working at the facilities on the effect sizes, are these people more/less likely to be depressed?

MINOR
Background
6. 1st paragraph last sentence: please reword to improve understanding.
7. Fundament: replace (eg EVR makes it economically viable for people to retire early)
8. 2001: is very old data, can you please provide more recent numbers as a lot has changed in the last 14 years
9. Page 4: 2nd paragraph, you say to our knowledge. You report in the discussion a few studies that found similar findings to your study but your design is stronger then in comparison to these studie? Additionally, http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00127-011-0375-7#page-1 used longitudinal data to investigate the impact of mental health on early retirement, albeit not depression perse.
Methods
10. Design and 1st 2 sentences population can be shortened, they are a little repetitive
11. Why did you not include all waves? You could see a reduced effect overtime?
12. Oppose=opposed
13. Seniority replace with a clearer term= years in the workforce?? (seniority sounds like being old)

Results
15. Page 8: 3rd paragraph: See above.
16. If the effects disappear because the numbers become to small as you state in your discussion, would it be useful to test this further by combining the smaller groups to see what happens?

Discussion
17. Page 9: ‘confounded by other factors’, comorbidity?
18. Page 9 last sentence: why did you put the factor in?
19. Generalisable to aged care workers in western countries?

Tables
20. Procentage=percentage

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.