Reviewer's report

Title: Long work hours and sickness absence—A fixed effects design

Version: 0 Date: 07 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Katja Spanier

Reviewer's report:
Comments to the author:
The manuscript titled "Long work hours and sickness absence - A fixed effects design" provides a valuable contribution and a methodically sophisticated approach to recent occupational research. Actually, I have one major comment concerning the sample I would like to bring into consideration to the author.

Title:
* I think the more common wording is "working hours".

Abstract:
* There should be an explanation of the abbreviation of HR.
* The outcome measurement should be more specified, e.g. 1-8 days, 9-183 days, >183 days

Background:
* The review mentioned under the reference numbered with 16 is published meanwhile

Methods
* The flow of participants and the many sources of data are very puzzling and still confuse me. The author should provide a figure to illustrate this for a better understanding. For me at this point it is impossible to answer whether the inclusion criteria and the restrictions of the sample for the analysis provide the risk for a bias beyond that one which is discussed in the limitation section.
* Page 10, line 8: Operators lead in the wrong direction
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 am able to assess the statistics

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

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