Reviewer's report

Title: Experiences of positive encounters with healthcare professionals among women on long-term sickness absence due to breast cancer or due to other diagnoses: A nationwide survey

Version: 0 Date: 02 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Rose Maly

Reviewer's report:

Comments to the Authors

This is a well written paper, which needs a few minor edits for English language, on an important topic, namely the influence of positive encounters with healthcare professionals on return to work (RTW) among women on long term sick leave due to breast cancer or due to other diagnoses.

I have the following specific comments and suggestions:

1. Page 4, lines 51-53: Why as the interval of sick leave lasting at least 4 months and not more than 8 months chosen? Wouldn't sick leaves of 3 months or, especially, greater than 8 months also be important?

2. Page 4, line 1: The verb following "BC there is" should be plural "are."

3. Page 5m line 51, Table 3 should be Table 2.

4. Page 6, lines 49-58: These are not standardized or validated depressive symptoms questions. A validated 2-item screening questionnaire for depressive symptoms is the Patient Health Questionnaire 2 (PHQ-2) published by from Kroenke K, Spitzer RL, Williams JB and would have been preferred, though the questions used in the present study are similar.

5. Page 9, line 7: "and in falling order," should be "and in the following order."

6. Page 11, line 22, the acronym, "SA," should be spelled out.
7. Page 11, line 34: "than those with other diagnoses" should be added after "fewer women with BC…"

8. Table 1, footnote "for a continues variable" probably was supposed to be "for a continuous variable," but this I believe is incorrect, as the variables in this table are categorical, not continuous.

9. Page 11, lines 21-29: awkward English text—needs to be edited as the meaning of this sentence is murky.

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? 
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I am able to assess the statistics

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