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: 13 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Miyako Takahashi

Reviewer's report:

This paper (seems to) aim to reveal the impact of patients' positive encounters with healthcare professionals on patients' return to work. Although this paper contains some interesting findings, I do not think the current quality of this paper is good enough to be published for an international, academic journal.

I will present my comments on each section.

Study aims:

1. Study aims are too broad and unclear. Is it to reveal the impact of positive encounters on patients' RTW, or is it to reveal the specific type of positive encounters that influence RTW? The study purpose should be described more clearly in the background section.

2. The background section should be revised according to the specific purpose of the paper.

Methods:

1. The authors need to state the rationale why they decided to compare BC patients' experiences with healthcare professionals with those of other diagnosis. Is there a comparability between the two groups? Also, if the authors wanted to elucidate the characteristics of encounters among BC patients, the authors could have compared BC patients with other patients with cancer, not with patients of other diagnosis as a whole which are so heterogeneous.

2. Descriptions of some type of positive encounter is too abstract to understand the context (e.g. "believed me", "made appropriate demands", "defended me/stood on my side").
Results and discussion

1. Results and discussion can be revised according to the purpose. Because the purpose of the study remains unclear, both results and discussion seems to be quite vague.

2. In Figure 1, the authors need to state what kind of positive encounters promoted RTW. Was the distribution of types of positive encounters similar between "positive promoted" group and "positive no influence" group among BC sample and others sample respectively?

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.

No

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

No

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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