Reviewer’s report

Title: Work-family conflicts and self-reported work ability: Cross-sectional findings in women with chronic musculoskeletal disorders

Version: 1 Date: 12 December 2014

Reviewer: Manuela Ferreira

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very well written and interesting study and it was a pleasure reading it. I have only discretionary revisions for the authors.

In the abstract, it would be helpful to readers if the authors provided more information on the study design and measures.

In the introduction, page 5, paragraph 1, the authors introduce the rationale of assessing the role of work-family conflicts in the development of musculoskeletal pain-related disability. It is not clear, however, that work ability, used in the study as the primary outcome measure, encompasses pain-related disability. Would it be possible that patients would present these limitations in work ability due to work-family conflicts, irrespective of any musculoskeletal disorder?

I wonder if type of work/occupation would have influenced the results as well. Have the authors measured that, and could you please comment on how that would potentially influence the results?

In the results section, it would be helpful to present some guidance to the interpretation of Cronbach’s alpha and path analyses results.

In the discussion, page 15, last paragraph, I would like to see the words ‘risk factor’ used with a bit more caution, perhaps, given this is a cross-sectional study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I do not have any conflict of interest with the authors or manuscript.