Reviewer's report

Title: Cross-sectional associations between occupational factors and musculoskeletal pain in female teachers, nurses and sonographers

Version: 3 Date: 28 December 2015

Reviewer: Eileen McNeely

Reviewer's report:

1. Major revisions - authors have addressed the issue of part-time workers adequately.

The reorganization of the paper to move the instrument data to an appendix and to rephrase the abstract are major improvements for the clarity and flow of the paper. Also, typos have been corrected. No further major compulsory revisions needed.

2. Minor essential revisions. A number of the exposure variables could use a brief explanation in the text for clarification (or a supplementary Table of the specific questions). For example, a brief explanation about job demands would be helpful to understand whether this scale includes items such as psychological demands (i.e. time pressures, conflicting demands, excessive demands, as well as, physical demands). In addition, a description about which aspects of control are captured in job control (i.e. skill discretions and autonomy) and same for sensory demands and emotional demands). For the general audience---brief statements will add for clarity about what these variables mean. This would be similar to the descriptions already included for specific technical measures and health outcomes.

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 have no conflicts of interest