Author’s response to reviews

Title: Important work demands for reducing sickness absence among workers with neck or upper back pain: a prospective cohort study

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Important work demands for reducing sickness absence among workers with neck pain: a prospective cohort study Stefan Oliv, M.sc; Adnan Noor Baloch, M.Sc; Ewa Gustafsson, Phd; Mats Hagberg, Md, Phd; Helena Sandén, Md, Phd BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your valuable comments. We have made alterations and clarifications in the manuscript following your comments as described below.

Best regards
Stefan Oliv

Assistant Editor Comments:

1. Overlap
We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:


While we understand that this is work that you have previously published, and some of the same ideas are contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work.

For methods and studies you have previously done please summarise and reference the original study instead.

Please be informed that we cannot proceed with handling your manuscript before this issue is resolved, and the sections of text in question have been reformulated.

- Thank you for your comment. We have made additional changes to the methods section. We have tried to providing the reader with a clear description of the content and methods used in this study.

2. Acknowledgements
We note that you have not included an acknowledgements section in your Declarations section. If you have no acknowledgements please put ‘Not Applicable' in this section.

- Thank you for your comment. We have added the acknowledgement section.

3. Clean manuscript
At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

- Thank you, we have removed all highlights.