Reviewer's report

**Title:** Productivity Loss and Indirect Costs Associated with Cardiovascular Events and Related Clinical Procedures

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 11 May 2015

**Reviewer:** G. Nathan Dong

**Reviewer's report:**

Discretionary Revisions

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The paper is significantly improved. Some of my first-round comments still need to be addressed in a more substantive manner, and I offer two additional feedbacks. Comment numbers are ordered by priority:

First, it is not clear from the discussion of the data sample whether employer (firm) characteristics are considered and included in the selection of the matched sample. It appears that the control group is constructed solely based on the employee characteristics. The authors can discuss this issue if addressing it is not feasible at this stage. Different employers have different corporate guidelines in regard to paid sick day and vacation leave, and some of them can be easily abused by employees, making comparison difficult.

Second, this research is not a randomized controlled trial (RCT). So it appears worthwhile, putting aside the tremendous efforts that have been made in constructing the matched sample, to conduct regression analysis with more controls for patient characteristics including health status. It is possible that certain age, ethncial or income groups are more likely to experience many health related consequences including those of cardiovascular and diabetes risk. However, the availability of the data may limit the authors’ ability to tease out the effect on a large scale.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.