Reviewer’s report

Title: Optimising strategies to address mental ill-health in doctors and medical students: ‘Care Under Pressure’ realist review and implementation guidance

Version: 1 Date: 10 Feb 2020

Reviewer: Reidar Tyssen

Reviewer's report:

I think you have revised quite wisely, and would strongly recommend the editors to include also the description of stakeholder group's participation as an additional file. This kind of user involvement seems to be key in the realist review.

I have only one query, as regards my comment 9, since this is so crucial in all epidemiology (temporality is a major Bradford Hill's criteria). Followed by your clarification, this actually explains an important major advantage of the Pawson method...

I would strongly recommend a sentence like this at the end of line 19 page 9: "Most studies about individual and work-related factors related to doctors' mental ill-health are of a cross-sectional design, however, it is still epistemologically possible to make causal claims based on such data, especially by combining data of various types, as in a realist review (ref. 21, 24)"

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?
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Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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Not relevant to this manuscript
Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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