Sickness absentees’ experiences of encounters with professionals from healthcare and social insurance

There is little knowledge on factors that influence return to work among long-term sickness absentees. So far, mainly the effects of different rehabilitation measures have been studied, however, not the effect of the encounter with professionals. Some of our results indicate that this might be of importance for return to work, why we have continued to study this in different projects.

The aim is to get knowledge on how long-term sickness absentees experience their encounters with professionals and the possible influence of this for return to work, to get knowledge bases for preventive measures.

Interdisciplinary studies are conducted, using different methods for data collection and data analyses. Data from focus group interview, individual interview, and questionnaires have been analysed. Based on these results a comprehensive questionnaire was constructed and in 2004 sent to the home addresses of a sample of 10 000 long-term sickness absentees in Sweden. An equivalent questionnaire was in 2013 sent to 17 400 long-term sickness absentees and 1000 people who had had their claim for prolonged sickness benefits declined. Also, such questions are included in other, diagnoses specific studies, e.g., of women with breast cancer or of patients undergoing insurance medicine assessments. In these studies we also collaborate with e.g., researchers from Monash University in Australia.

Project leader:
Professor Kristina Alexanderson
08-524 832 00 Kristina.alexanderson@ki.se

Assistant project leader: Researcher Emilie Friberg emilie.friberg@ki.se

Publications

PhD thesis

PhD thesis that are partly based on such data
2. Nilssson M. Psychosocial situation and work after breast cancer surgery - women’s experiences. Division of Insurance Medicine, Karolinska Institutet; 2013.

**Publications in international scientific journals**


Reports

1. Friberg E, Hinas E, Alexanderson K. Sjukskrivna personers upplevelse av bemötande från Försäkringskassan och hälso- och sjukvården. Inspektionen för socialförsäkringen, rapport 2014:9 (An English summary of the report is available here: