

Research on sickness certification practice; theories and methods used

How do physicians handle consultations where the patient is or want to be sickness absent or on disability pension?

Pre-conference meeting arranged by the Section of Social Security and Health at the EUPHA-conference in Lisbon, Portugal, November 5, 2008.

Organising committee: Kristina Alexanderson (kristina.alexanderson@ki.se), Debbie Cohen, Angelique de Rijk, Peter Donceel.

PROGRAM

- 08:30 ■ **Registration, coffee/tea**
- 09:00 ■ **Welcome and presentation.**
Kristina Alexanderson, president of the EUPHA-section of Social Security and Health, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden
- 09:15 ■ **Introducing the theme and program. What is researched, what do we know?**
Kristina Alexanderson
- 09:30 ■ **A systematic review of studies about physician's sickness certification practice** Elsy Söderberg, PhD, Linköping University and the Swedish Social Security Agency. Kristina Alexanderson
- 10:15 **Coffee break**
- 10:35 ■ **Group work (two types of groups)**
1. Groups with researchers who do not focus on sickness certification practice but on other aspects of sickness absence, such as risk factors: How could I use knowledge and theories about aspects of sickness certification practice in the research, e.g. regarding reviewing and interpreting differences in incidence?
2. Groups with researchers who focus on sickness certification practice: How does my research correspond to that done by others in the area, with regard to study design, theoretical model, methods for data collection and analyses? what do studies on sickness certification practice contribute to? What problems should be solved with studies on sickness certification?
- 11:50 ■ **Reports from groups**
- 12:15 **Lunch**
- 13:15 ■ **The sickness certification consultation in general practice; an intervention study** Debbie Cohen, General practitioner and M.D., Cardiff university, UK
- 13:35 ■ **The importance of management of sickness certification practice in health care** Mia von Knorring, PhD student and psychologist, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden.
- 14:05 ■ **Information exchange, communication or co-operation between professionals in sickness certification; effects on sickness absence. Intervention trials in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Norway.**
K. Mortelmans, MD PhD, Occupational Health Services, Belgium
- 14:05 ■ **Medico-legal reasoning in assessment of long-term incapacity for work; a comparison between Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway and Slovenia.**
Wout de Boer, medical doctor, PhD student, TNO, the Netherlands.
- 14:25 ■ **Sicknote strategies and negotiations, patterns and taxonomy from consultation analysis.** Prof Mark Gabbay, University of Liverpool, UK
- 14:45 **Coffee/tea break**
- 15:05 ■ **Views on barriers among GPs and orthopaedic surgeons in their sickness certification practice**
Malin Swartling, PhD and physician, Uppsala University, Sweden
- 16:00 ■ **Discussion: what research is needed at this stage?**
Kristina Alexanderson
- 17:00 ■ **Summary of the day, reflections**
Mansel Aylward, Professor, Cardiff University, UK (alt)
- 17:30 ■ **Final remarks from the organizing committee**
- 17.45-18:15 ■ **Planning of next pre-conference and other practical issues**
- 19:30 ■ **Dinner, for all participants**