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 healthcare
       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