

ABSTRACT:

Title:

What predicts individuals signed off sick remaining in the job market and how important is the diagnoses?

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Introduction:

Long-term sickness absence is a major public health and economic problem and is associated with a reduced probability of return to work (RTW). Early detection of patients at risk for long-term sickness absence is important in order to regain their work ability. To get a better understanding of RTW and to support the development of rehabilitation interventions, it is necessary to identify factors that are associated with the duration of sickness absence. A prediction model has been developed to follow links to the workplace post sick leave based on registers with information as sex, age and socioeconomic status. The study concludes that there is a need for testing other variables to create a more precise risk profile. A nationwide Danish Return to Work Project gives unique information about self-reported diagnoses and psychosocial factors of 75,000 individuals signed off sick and make it possible to include these factors in the prediction model in order to test if the model is more robust in a medical context.

Methods:

The sample population is the 75,000 individuals aged 20 and 59 years enrolled in the Danish Project. The data is investigated and it is tested which combinations of variables and what degree of detail is necessary to have for the single variable to be used in prediction.

Results:

We aim to establish a significant prediction model, which can assess future job market affiliation for the sick listed individual and in detail test if the diagnosis is a significant variable for establishing a useful risk profile.

Discussion and conclusion:

Knowledge about what factors improve or worsen the prognosis for individuals on sick leave is important for the hospitals' planning of rehabilitation services, the general practitioners' sickness certification as well as the employers' planning and distribution of tasks. As a society, a precise diagnosis can lead to more guided rehabilitation plans and thereby avoid unnecessary steps. We expect that the results of the study will make it possible to designate the prognosis of labor market affiliation for people on sick leave depending on diagnosis and thereby maintain individuals with health problems at the labor market.