

Appendix B. List of variables and scales used in the questionnaire

Overview of variables

Time 1

Variable	Reference	Reliability (α)
Demographics		
Gender		
Age		
Education		
Marital status		
Number of adults in household		
Number of children in household		
Number of people working in household		
Care for elderly/disabled		
Personal monthly income		
Household monthly income		
Ability to make living without returning to work		
Job characteristics		
Job title		
Job tenure		
Job contract type		
Private/public sector		
Work sector specification		
Size of workplace		
Availability of sick pay/health insurance/pension at workplace		
Contract work hours		
Actual work hours		
Psychosocial work characteristics		
JCQ-Job Content Questionnaire (modified version)	Karasek et al, 1998	
– Job Control: 7 items		0.79
– Psychological Job Demands: 5 items		0.77
– Supervisor Social Support: 4 items		0.90
– Coworker Social Support: 4 items		0.77
– Physical Job Demand: 3 items		0.84
ERI-Effort Reward Imbalance Scale (modified version)	Siegrist, 1996	
– Reward: 8 items		0.71
– Overcommitment: 6 items		0.85
COPSOQ-Copenhagen Psychosocial Questionnaire (modified version)	Kristensen, 2002	
– Emotional demands: 4 items		0.78
– Cognitive Demands: 3 items (using 2 items from COPSOQ & 1 item from JCQ)	Kristensen, 2002 Karasek et al, 1998	0.84
MOSI-Masterson Overall Satisfaction Index	Masterson et al, 2000	
– Job satisfaction: 2 items		0.83
Work-family balance scale (modified version)	Marmot et al, 1991; Hammer et al, 2004	
– Work-family interference: 3 items		0.73
– Family-work interference: 2 items		0.80
QPSNordic-General Questionnaire for Psychological and Social factors at work (modified version)	Lindström et al, 2000	
– Work Centrality index: 2 items		0.61
Availability of H&S policies, guidelines and health schemes at work		
Policies & guidelines: 7 items		
Health schemes: 6 items		
Lifestyle		
Amount of exercise before absence: 3 items		
Amount of exercise after absence: 3 items		
PSQI-Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index: 11 items (modified version)	Buysee et al, 2000	
– Sleeping problems: 4 items		0.67
Life-style changes: 9 items		
Personality & health characteristics		
OLBI-Oldenburg Burnout Inventory (full version)	Demerouti et al, 2003	
– Exhaustion: 8 items		0.86
– Disengagement: 8 items		0.74
GSE-Generalized Self-Efficacy scale: 10 items (full version)	Schwarzer & Jerusalem, 1995	0.92
CESD-Depression scale: 10 items (short version)	Radloff, 1977	0.88
	Andresen et al, 1994	

Stressful life-events: 11 items		
General health status: 1 item		
Work ability index (modified version)	Tuomi et al, 1998	
– Medical condition (diagnosis): 16 items		
– Condition work related: 1 item		
– General work ability: 1 item		
– Physical work ability: 1 item		
– Mental work ability: 1 item		
Number of previous absences		
Length of previous absences		
Reason for previous absence		
Length of current absence		
Main reason for current absence		
(coded) Diagnosis for absence		
Absence: particular event or gradual process		
Absence: Unexpected event		
Absence & return to work		
Main sources household income during absence		
Experience of absence	Kivistö & Joensuu, 2001	
– Detached from: 5 items		0.75
– Attached to work: 4 items		0.67
Have you returned to work		
When did you return		
What job after return to work		
When do you expect to return to work		
To what job do you expect to return		
Likelihood of future labour market position		
Contact with (health) services and professionals		
Contact with services & helpfulness: 11 items		
Contact with professionals & helpfulness: 13 items		
Contact between professionals		
Contact manager and professionals		
Contact with work organisation/OHS in first month: 4 items		
Contact with work organisation/OHS after first month: 4 items		
Return to work co-ordinator		
Job position held open		
How long job position open		
Interventions		
Medical interventions & helpfulness: 7 items		
Interventions offered by employer before absence: 11 items		
Interventions offered by employer after absence: 11 items		
Were offered interventions helpful: 11 items		
Which interventions would help: 11 items		

Time 2

Demographics

Marital status
Number of adults in household
Number of children in household
Number of people working in household
Personal monthly income
Household monthly income
Main sources of household income

Job characteristics (for people that have resumed only)

Job title
Current job same as before absence
Job type
Private/public sector
Work sector specification
Size of workplace

Return to work (for people that have resumed only)

Have you returned to work (for all respondents)
How many hours do you work
How many weeks since you have returned
What date did you return
Relapse to absence
Factors that influenced return to work
Arrangements offered by employer: 5 items

Return to work (for people who are still absent)

When do you expect to return to work
To what job do you expect to return
Factors preventing your return to work
Contact with work organisation/OHS in past 3 months: 4 items
Arrangements offered by employer & helpfulness: 5 items
Ability to make living without returning to work
Likelihood of future labour market position

Psychosocial work characteristics

QPSNordic-General Questionnaire for Psychological and Social factors at work (modified version) Lindström et al, 2000
– Work Centrality index: 2 items 0.77

Lifestyle

Amount of exercise last month: 3 items
PSQI-Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index: 11 items (modified version) Buysee et al, 2000 0.68
– Sleeping problems: 4 items
Life-style changes: 9 items

Personality & health characteristics

Stressful life-events: 11 items
GSE-Generalized Self-Efficacy scale: 10 items (full version) Schwarzer & Jerusalem, 1995 0.92
Hopkins Symptoms Checklist: 26 items (modified version) Derogatis et al, 1974
– Somatization: 12 items 0.87
– Anxiety: 6 items 0.89
– Obsessive compulsive: 8 items 0.92
General health status: 1 item
CESD-Depression scale: 10 items (short version) Radloff, 1977 0.87
Andresen et al, 1994
Tuomi et al, 1998

Work ability index (modified version)

– Medical condition (diagnosis): 16 items
– General work ability: 1 item
– Physical work ability: 1 item
– Mental work ability: 1 item
Stress-definition: 1 item Elo et al, 2003
Health change

Contact with (health) services and professionals

Contact with services & helpfulness: 11 items
Contact with professionals & helpfulness: 12 items
Contact between professionals
Contact manager and professionals

Interventions & absence experience

Medical/vocational interventions & helpfulness: 6 items
Experience of absence Kivistö & Joensuu, 2001
– Detached from: 5 items 0.81
– Attached to work: 4 items 0.73
