Professional Development in Insurance Medicine
Example from Sweden

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- In contrast to many other countries insurance medicine is not a specialty in Sweden

- In Sweden all physicians can sickness certify

- Sick-leave certification is a common task (in most cases one would need a sick-leave certificate after day 8)
The majority (92%) of physicians stated that sick-leave certification was an important task.

Physicians in orthopedic clinics had the highest proportion of sickness-certifying consultations at least 6 times per week.

About half of the physicians stated that it was problematic to assess the patients’ work capacity. Longer sick-leave spells were in general experienced as significantly more problematic.
How problematic is it to:

- assess function
- assess work capacity
- assess work capacity of unemployed
- make prognosis of work capacity
- prolongation of other physician's certificate
- manage the two roles
- act on demands for more info from SIA

![Bar chart showing responses to the question.](chart.png)
Physicians' Specialty Training

- For all specialities there is a mandatory objective concerning insurance medicine that needs to be achieved.
- The objective can be achieved through different actions, but there are several short or web-based courses.
Professional development in insurance medicine – at Karolinska Institutet

**Advanced level**

- Open for physicians with a medical specialty or in training for a specialty.
- 3 semesters part time.
- Afterwards, annual meeting inviting all former and current students. Covering “what's new in research about insurance medicine”
Themes covered...

Praxis
Science and research
Relevant laws
Rules and regulations
Organisation of relevant parts of society
Different aspects of the sick-leave certification process and management
One of the themes covered – searching for evidence

- Library training, introduction to different databases, suitable search terms etc
- Assignment to search for research concerning one specified diagnosis and outcomes such as sick leave, disability pension or RTW, and compare this to national sick-leave guidelines
- Lecture about systematic reviews and evidence grading etc
- Group work, read, discuss (not only content but quality and methods used) and present one published systematic review
What does the students say about searching for evidence...

All steps experienced as difficult and confusing
Few clear answers
Identified papers perceived as out of context...challenge that one paper don’t answer everything

Difficult to differ between problems in the original studies from the methodological problems in a specific systematic review

Difficult to understand the difference between for example Cochrane, pubmed, and google...
A search is a search...

Etc etc
Research education in insurance medicine

- Sickness Absence Research; Theories, Methods and Concepts
  - At Karolinska Institutet
  - Open for PhD-students
  - 3 weeks
  - Competence about current research on sickness absence, regarding different types of study designs, data, and analytical approaches within different scientific disciplines
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- Work Disability Prevention – Bridging research and practice
  → NIVA education
  → June 2021, 1-week
  → Covering work disability prevention, intervention research, and sociopolitical challenges (including implementation of evidence-based practice)
Regional initiatives – Stockholm (example)
Establishment of three knowledge centres of insurance medicine to map knowledge needs and provide training in insurance medicine to all healthcare personnel

- Primary health care
- Psychiatry
- Other specialised care including hospitals
Thank you!

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