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### Frequent sickness absence, a signal to take action

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## About the author

Annette Notenbomer was born on August 28th 1964 in Roden, the Netherlands. After graduating from the Praedinius Gymnasium in Groningen she studied Medicine at the University of Leiden from 1982 to 1989. From 1989 to 1994 she worked for Glaxo, graduated from the Rotterdam School of Management (MBA) and worked for British Telecom. In 1994 she had the first, positive, experience of working in occupational medicine at the Gemeentelijke Arbodienst of Rotterdam. This part-time job allowed her time to raise funding for Salternate BV, to develop a new salt substitute. After several successes in the period of 1994 to 2000 in this company (worldwide patents, first license holder, additional financing), the product was not sufficiently effective, leading to stopping all activities. Reflection on her experiences brought her to focus on future work as an occupational physician, which combines medical and organizational issues. Soon after starting in 2000 at ArboNed Leeuwarden she started her formal education for further specialization and became a certified occupational physician in 2005. She found the subject of frequent sickness absence increasingly interesting, both from a professional and organizational point of view. As she likes intellectual challenges, she searched for possibilities to improve applicable knowledge on frequent sickness absence that supports occupational physicians. This led to the start in 2011 of her dissertation research. From July 2017 she enjoys working at the Dutch Labor Inspection (which is part of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment).

