Reviewer's report

Title: Default from tuberculosis treatment in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Who are these defaulters and why do they default?

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Reviewer: Bernt Lindtjorn

Reviewer's report:

This is an important paper in this field. Tuberculosis is a large problem in the former Soviet Union, and high defaulting rates are associated with high resistance rates.

This is a well written paper and a good study. My concern is that I have seen many similar papers. May be we need to find different ways of doing research on non-completion that will improve tuberculosis control. What is distinct about this paper is that they identify causes that can be of practical relevance.

This paper identifies some of the variables that other researches have found, but also discusses reasons for defaulting that can be addressed through changes in policy. This is related to the way the health institutions deal with “difficult patients”.

How do the authors plan using the findings of this study? Can they propose specific interventions suitable for this region? A pilot study that could change policy?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests