Reviewer's report

Title: Tobacco Control in the Russian Federation: A Policy Analysis

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Reviewer: Joshua Abrams

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1. Overview

This article is a comprehensive and informative overview of the key policy, economic, health, and cultural issues surrounding tobacco use in Russia. It is certainly timely, given the movement toward comprehensive tobacco control legislation, and should help international audiences understand the problem and steps toward solutions clearly. Writing is clear and concise, the article well-structured.

Data are apparently drawn from a variety of primary and secondary sources, including scientific research, journalism, and firsthand accounts by experts. The methodology seems appropriate for this kind of survey; sources are appropriate and well-used to provide an accurate picture of the challenges and opportunities in Russia. The descriptions of current tobacco control laws and policies are wholly accurate.

2. Discretionary Revisions

Their account of the policy battles and tobacco industry involvement in the policy process are also correct, as is their assessment of policy prospects for strong legislation. Due to the time-lag between authoring and reviewing this article, however, certain facts are no longer current and should be revised. Most importantly, the Ministry of Health's tobacco control legislation is expected to be approved by the government in October and sent to the Duma by November 1, as per a decree by President Putin from May. Similarly, some policy actors have changed, with the Ministries of Agriculture and Economic Development now coming out in favor of tobacco control legislation. MOH has also recently published guidelines for pictorial pack warnings. I would suggest a revision of parts of the Policy Process and Policy Actors section and to Table 2 to reflect all recent policy changes. These revisions would also help to strengthen and contemporize the authors' conclusion, as this draft law as currently written would conform to both FCTC and the "National Tobacco Control Concept." Revisions are suggested at the author's discretion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests