Reviewer’s report

Title: Mental health of immigrants from the former Soviet Bloc: a future problem for primary health care in the enlarged European Union? A cross-sectional study

Version: 7 Date: 4 January 2007

Reviewer: Kamaldeep Bhui

Reviewer’s report:

General

The authors have responded very postively and revised the manuscript substantially to reflect the significant concerns I, other reviewers and editors had on the submission and the first revision. The paper is more measured, theory driven, and now enables a reader to reliably assess the merits of the findings, especially where there was previously insufficient information in the paper; for example, the question of whether the authors can talk of diagnostic categories rather than symptoms. There is still a problem with psychosomatic complaints being considered a diagnostic group, but the information presented enables a reader to recognise this and see the limitations of the outcomes. Despite being a slightly longer paper, I think the background provides a valuable context in which the findings can be fully appreciated. I am pleased to recommend publication of this useful contribution.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

None

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

In some instances the terms mental illness and psychiatric illness, and/or disorder are used interchangeably. It's worth editing for consistency.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'