Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and factors associated with the use of complementary and alternative medicine practitioners in 8 countries of the former Soviet Union

Version: 2 Date: 22 October 2012

Reviewer: Barbara Stussman

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Page 5/Study variables and statistical analysis: provide justification for definition of CAM use (i.e. go to a person practicing non-traditional (folk) medicine). Was any pilot testing done on this phrasing to determine what modalities respondents included? Phrasing is very general and could include a wide variety of remedies.

2. Page 5/Study variables and statistical analysis: Provide justification for selection of these 10 conditions for analysis.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Title: Reword title to clarify that the analyses are restricted to persons with at least one of 10 health conditions.

2. Throughout the manuscript, the 10 health conditions are sometimes referred to as “disease conditions” and sometimes as “symptoms.” Since these are different, use the more accurate term consistently.

3. Page 6/last sentence in first full paragraph: Provide the percent for those with missing values for age, sex, education, marital status, wealth, trust in doctors and distance to their health facility.

4. Page 10/Conclusions/2nd sentence: reword “distrust of doctors were associated with fewer symptoms” because as currently worded it sounds like distrust of doctors was associated with having a fewer number of health conditions, which is not the case.

5. Figure 1/Title: Change title to clarify results are for “usually treating” and “for persons having at least one of 10 health conditions”

Discretionary Revisions
1. Results/first sentence: Move first sentence to methods section.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.