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: 4 Date: 27 January 2013

Reviewer: Samuel M Brown

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My concern is that the authors have not demonstrated that their instrument answers the question it is reported to answer in the manuscript under review. In Russian, at least, "traditsionnaya meditsina" can mean various things, including both conventional biomedicine and folk medicine depending on the context. I would need to see the Russian instrument to be able to comment in greater detail, but my paper some years back documents just how widespread are CAM therapies that would not be identified with the type of questions implied by the account in their paper.

I suspect that similar problems are also present in the non-Russian-speaking sample.