Reviewer’s report

Title: Feasibility of alcohol screening and brief intervention in primary health care in Kazakhstan: study protocol of a pilot cluster randomized trial

Version: 0 Date: 08 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Nyasha Mafirakureva

Reviewer's report:

General comment

This manuscript is well written and contains some interesting materials on managing alcohol misuse. The following are some comments which the authors may wish to address.

Abstract
Well structured

Methods

Intervention arm
'The intervention will be informed by motivational interviewing principles and structured around the FRAMES model (Feedback, Responsibility, Advice, Menu, Empathy, and Self-efficacy)” - I think a brief description of these will be helpful.

Control arm
"All patients in the control arm will receive simple feedback...." - could you please briefly describe what this simple feedback entails.

Follow-up after 3 months
This is being done 'Only patients with baseline AUDIT-C score of 4+ for women and 5+ or for men' - what about those in the control arm? Are their outcomes irrelevant?

Costs of intervention
Despite being mentioned in table 1, there are no further details about the costs of intervention or how they will be estimated. Please provide some details.

Study setting
What was the criteria for selecting the study sites? What is the geographical distribution of sites? Is there any risk of contamination and how has this been reduced in the design?

Availability of data and materials
"The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request” - no data has been described in the write up making this statement incorrect. Please revise accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your paper and it provides useful information and data for future study in this area.
**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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