## Attempting to Bring Order to Disorder:

The Collaborative Effort of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan to Develop Clinical Practice Guidelines in One Country of the Former Soviet Union

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# Background

- Soviet-era approach to providing guidance for the management of health-related problems was nonevidence-based
  - Marked by ineffectiveness, inefficiency, and inflexibility
  - Formulated by government-approved individuals
- Prikaz (decree) is the main document regulating the diagnosis and management of individual health or public health conditions

# Background (2)

- Creativity and flexibility were stifled:
  - Culture of blame and punishment
  - No reward for the identification of faults of the prikaz
- Post-Soviet Union era:
  - Continuation of the Soviet-era culture
  - *Prikaz* is influenced by pharmaceutical companies, various medical institutes and groups of professors with particular interests

## Clinical Practice Guidelines Project

- In 2013, the Uzbekistan Ministry of Health (UMOH) launched the "Health 3" project
  - Funded by the World Bank
- UMoH and CDC then began a long-term clinical practice guidelines (CPG) project with three goals:
  - 1. End the existent *prikaz* approach to providing guidance
  - 2. Introduce an evidence-based approach to developing CPGs
  - 3. Provide a uniform, attractive, easy-to-use paper and electronic format for all CPGs

### Methods

- We used the AGREE II instrument to catalogue and evaluate current prikazes (32 CPGs and 411 standards of diagnosis and treatment) developed by local scientists, 2005-2015
- We invited 45 local scientists involved in developing CPGs and 25 practicing physicians to attend three CDC workshops about using modern approaches to create CPGs, 2013-2016

# Results (1)

- 1. We found innumerable products with the varying designations of "Standards of diagnosis and treatment," "Clinical protocols," "Practice guidelines," "Methodological letters for treatment," "Guidelines for best practice," etc.
- 2. Leading specialists from medical schools, research medical institutes and national medical centers authored these products (usually 2-4 people)
- 3. Products differed in formats, and none were attractive nor "physician-friendly"

# Results (2)

- 4. Recommendations were not consistent with the principles of EBM:
  - Frequently reflecting opinions of experts or authoritative scientists to the detriment of facts
  - Legalizing doubtful practices
- 5. There was no information about the process of development, nor methods of distribution and implementation
- 6. Most documents could not be put into practice:
  - Absence of demand from practitioners
  - Isolation from the real situation of medical practice
- 7. Cost-effectiveness was never considered nor were preferences of patients
- 8. Approaches were often outdated and there was no update mechanism

## Impact

- Having performed a situation analysis, we have devised a plan to institute a standardized approach to the development of CPGs and a standardized, appealing format featuring diagrams and algorithms
- During and following three CDC workshops, participants evaluated 12 local CPGs using the AGREE II instrument. All CPGs received low scores
- We translated multiple key published papers into Russian for the training of participants
- We are establishing three multidisciplinary working groups (8-10 experts in each group) to devise a CPG for each of three diseases which are most important to public health
- A future fourth training will review the new CPGs, reinforce principles, and revise the CPGs before beginning further CPGs

### **Impact**

### New CDC training materials and selected reference literature used



Clinical Practice Guideline Development Approach for Translating Evidence into

Richard M. Rosenfeld, MD, MPH<sup>1</sup>, Richard N. Shiffman, MD, MCIS<sup>2</sup>,

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Руководства по разработке

### Разработка научно-обоснованных клинических руководств

эры: Тари Тёрнер<sup>1, 2</sup>, Мари Миссо<sup>3</sup>, Клэр Харрис<sup>2</sup> и Салли Грин<sup>3</sup>

ательств, по процессу выработки рекомендаций, консультациям с другими суі вы по разработке руководств, а также по текущему обзору и обновлению КР.

# Scientists and Physicians at Initial CDC Training



### Limitations

- While the UMOH has been quite supportive of our collaborative effort, working within the framework of a decades-old culture and approach to medical guidance has proved challenging
- The lack of English-speaking colleagues in Uzbekistan and lack of internet accessibility or use continues to hamper our efforts to introduce change

## Conclusions

- CPGs in Uzbekistan must change to those:
  - Based on evidence
  - With a uniform, appealing format
  - With effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and patient-consideration being guiding principles
- We believe the difficulties we have encountered are shared by many other ex-Soviet countries, including Russia, and that our experience in introducing such change can be shared with them

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# Thank you!

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