

Written review by the official reviewer Bolatova Zhanerke Erlanovna, PhD, Associate Professor of the School of Public Health, Karaganda Medical University, on the dissertation of Kimatova Kerbez Naushaevna titled:  
 “Medical and social needs of the older people based on the EASYCare Standard 2010 questionnaire in the Republic of Kazakhstan”,  
 submitted under the educational program 8D10101 – “Public Health” for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

№	Criteria	Compliance with the criteria (underline one of the answer options)	Justification of the position of the official reviewer (highlight comments in italics)
1	The dissertation topic (as of the date of its approval) corresponds to the priorities of scientific development and/or state programs.	1.1. Compliance with priority areas of scientific development or state programs: 1. <u>The dissertation was carried out within the framework of a project or targeted program funded from the state budget (specify the title and project or program number);</u> 2. The dissertation was carried out within the framework of another state program (specify the title of the program); 3. <u>The dissertation corresponds to a priority area of scientific development approved by the Higher Scientific and Technical Commission under the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan (specify the area).</u>	1) The dissertation research was conducted within the framework of the scientific and technical project “Improving geriatric and gerontological care in the Republic of Kazakhstan” and was funded by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP09562783). 3) The dissertation corresponds to the priority direction of science development approved by the Higher Scientific and Technical Commission under the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, namely the direction of «The science of life and health».
2	Importance for science	The work <u>makes/does</u> not make a significant contribution to science, and its importance is <u>well/not</u> well demonstrated.	The work makes a significant contribution to science, and its importance is well demonstrated. The dissertation addresses a critical gap in assessing the medical and social needs of older adults in Kazakhstan using a globally recognized

			tool. Its relevance to public health policy and aging care services is clearly substantiated, making the research both timely and impactful.
3	Principle of independence	Level of independence: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>high</u>;</li> <li>2. medium;</li> <li>3. low;</li> <li>4. none</li> </ol>	The PhD candidate demonstrated a high level of independence throughout the research process — from the development of the study design and tool adaptation to data collection, analysis, and interpretation — indicating strong research autonomy and academic maturity.
4	Principle of internal unity	4.1 Justification of the relevance of the dissertation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>justified</u>;</li> <li>2. partially justified;</li> <li>3. not justified.</li> </ol>	The relevance of the dissertation is convincingly justified through a comprehensive analysis of demographic trends, healthcare system needs, and the lack of standardized geriatric assessment tools in Kazakhstan. The research addresses a vital public health priority.
		4.2 The content of the dissertation reflects the topic of the dissertation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>reflects</u>;</li> <li>2. partially reflects;</li> <li>3. does not reflect.</li> </ol>	The dissertation content is fully aligned with its stated topic. Each section consistently addresses the medical and social needs of older people using the EASYCare Standard 2010 within the context of Kazakhstan, demonstrating coherence and focus.
		4.3. The aim and objectives correspond to the dissertation topic: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>correspond</u>;</li> <li>2. partially correspond;</li> <li>3. do not correspond.</li> </ol>	The aim and objectives of the dissertation fully correspond to its topic. They are clearly formulated and logically structured to address the core research question. Each objective contributes to a comprehensive exploration of the medical and social needs of the elderly population in Kazakhstan, and they are all effectively integrated throughout the dissertation. This alignment ensures the research is purposeful, focused, and methodologically sound.
		4.4. All sections and provisions of the dissertation are logically interconnected: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>fully interconnected</u>;</li> <li>2. partially interconnected;</li> <li>3. not interconnected.</li> </ol>	The dissertation demonstrates strong internal coherence. Each chapter builds logically on the previous one, ensuring a smooth progression from theoretical framework to methodology, analysis, and conclusions.
		4.5 The author's proposed new solutions (principles, methods) are well-argued and evaluated in comparison with existing solutions:	The dissertation demonstrates a thorough critical analysis, comparing the EASYCare Standard 2010 with other assessment tools. The rationale for adaptation, its advantages, and contextual relevance are

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>critical analysis is present;</u></li> <li>2. <u>partial analysis;</u></li> <li>3. <u>analysis consists of quotations from other authors rather than original views;</u></li> <li>4. <u>analysis is absent.</u></li> </ol>	clearly articulated, showing originality and strong analytical reasoning.
5	Principle of scientific novelty	<p>5.1. Are the scientific results and findings new?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>completely new;</u></li> <li>2. <u>partially new (25–75% are new);</u></li> <li>3. <u>not new (less than 25% are new).</u></li> </ol>	The dissertation presents original findings on the medical and social needs of older adults in Kazakhstan using the EASYCare Standard 2010, which had not been previously adapted or validated in this context. This marks a novel and valuable contribution to national geriatric research and policy.
		<p>5.2. Are the conclusions of the dissertation new?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>completely new;</u></li> <li>2. <u>partially new (25–75% are new);</u></li> <li>3. <u>not new (less than 25% are new).</u></li> </ol>	The conclusions are based on original research findings and reflect a new understanding of the geriatric population's needs in Kazakhstan. They offer novel insights with practical implications for public health planning and elder care services.
		<p>5.3 Are the technical, technological, economic, or managerial solutions new and well-justified?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>completely new;</u></li> <li>2. <u>partially new (25–75% are new);</u></li> <li>3. <u>not new (less than 25% are new).</u></li> </ol>	The dissertation introduces a novel application and localization of the EASYCare Standard 2010 tool for Kazakhstan's healthcare context. The managerial and organizational implications for integrating geriatric assessment into primary care are well-justified and supported by evidence.
6	Justification of the main conclusions	All main conclusions <u>are</u> / are not based on scientifically valid evidence or are sufficiently well justified (for qualitative research and fields in the arts and humanities).	The conclusions are firmly grounded in robust quantitative analysis and supported by validated instruments, including the culturally adapted EASYCare Standard 2010. The justification is methodologically sound and adheres to rigorous public health research standards.

7	Key statements submitted for defense	<p>You must answer the following question for each individual thesis statement:</p> <p>7.1 Has the statement been proven?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>proven</u>;</li> <li>2. rather proven;</li> <li>3. rather not proven;</li> <li>4. not proven;</li> <li>5. in its current wording, it is impossible to assess whether the statement is proven.</li> </ol> <p>7.2 Is the statement trivial?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. yes;</li> <li>2. <u>no</u>;</li> <li>3. in its current wording, it is impossible to assess whether the statement is trivial.</li> </ol> <p>7.3 Is the statement new?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>yes</u>;</li> <li>2. no;</li> <li>3. in its current wording, it is impossible to assess whether the statement is new.</li> </ol> <p>7.4 Scope of applicability:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. narrow;</li> <li>2. moderate;</li> <li>3. <u>broad</u>;</li> <li>4. in its current wording, it is impossible to assess the scope of applicability.</li> </ol> <p>7.5 Is it proven in the article?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>yes</u>;</li> <li>2. no;</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adaptation and validation of the EASYCare Standard 2010 questionnaire into Kazakh and Russian languages made it possible to introduce an international tool for assessing the medical and social needs of older people for the first time in Kazakhstan, which ensures its reliability and applicability in local conditions.</li> <li>2. Key medical and social needs of older people in Kazakhstan were identified based on a standardized survey, including the risks of functional dependence, falls, breakdown in care, as well as insufficient social support and financial constraints.</li> <li>3. The main factors influencing the medical and social needs of the elderly have been identified, among which the level of education, age, marital status and financial situation play a key role.</li> <li>4. The research results can be used to adjust existing geriatric care programs and make additions to the national health policy, which will improve the availability and quality of medical and social support for the elderly in Kazakhstan.</li> </ol> <p>The statements submitted for defense are proven, non-trivial, novel, and have broad applicability. They are supported by evidence published in scientific articles.</p>
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		3. in its current wording, it is impossible to assess whether the statement is proven in the article.	
8	Principle of reliability. Reliability of sources and the information provided.	8.1 Choice of methodology – is it justified or sufficiently described? 1. <u>yes</u> ; 2. no.	The methodology is clearly justified and well-described. The selection and adaptation of the EASYCare Standard 2010, along with appropriate statistical methods, demonstrate a sound and transparent research design tailored to the study's objectives.
		8.2 The results of the dissertation were obtained using modern scientific research methods and techniques of data processing and interpretation, including the use of computer technologies: 1. <u>yes</u> ; 2. no.	The study employs up-to-date statistical software and validated research tools, ensuring accurate data analysis and interpretation. The use of digital technologies strengthens the reliability and reproducibility of the findings.
		8.3 Theoretical conclusions, models, identified relationships and patterns are proven and confirmed by experimental research (for educational sciences – confirmed through pedagogical experiments): 1. <u>yes</u> ; 2. no.	The dissertation's theoretical propositions and identified patterns are thoroughly validated through empirical research, including statistical analysis of field data. This ensures their scientific reliability and practical applicability.
		8.4 Important statements are <u>confirmed</u> /partially confirmed/not confirmed by references to relevant and reliable scientific literature.	The dissertation demonstrates a solid foundation in current scientific knowledge, with key arguments supported by up-to-date and credible sources from international and national literature, including WHO and peer-reviewed journals.
		8.5 The literature sources used are <u>sufficient</u> / not sufficient for the literature review.	The dissertation is grounded in a comprehensive review of both international and regional sources. It includes current research, WHO guidelines, and relevant academic publications, ensuring a well-rounded theoretical and contextual foundation.

9	Principle of practical value	<p>9.1 The dissertation has theoretical significance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>yes</u>;</li> <li>2. no.</li> </ol>	Yes. The research contributes to the theoretical framework of gerontology and public health by contextualizing the EASYCare Standard 2010 within Kazakhstan's healthcare system, offering insights into aging, care needs, and health policy development.
		<p>9.2 The dissertation has practical significance and there is a high probability of applying the obtained results in practice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>yes</u>;</li> <li>2. no.</li> </ol>	Yes. Based on the findings of the dissertation and supporting scientific publications, methodological recommendations were developed and implemented in urban polyclinics of the city to improve the assessment and care of older adults. Additionally, a master class was conducted among nursing staff on the prevention of falls in the elderly, aiming to translate research findings into practical skills and enhance the quality of geriatric care at the primary healthcare level.
		<p>9.3 The practical recommendations are new:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>completely new</u>;</li> <li>2. partially new (25–75% are new);</li> <li>3. not new (less than 25% are new).</li> </ol>	The dissertation introduces innovative, context-specific recommendations for integrating comprehensive geriatric assessment into Kazakhstan's healthcare system. These proposals are original and tailored to local infrastructure and demographic needs, offering strong potential for real-world implementation.
10	Quality of writing and formatting	<p>Quality of academic writing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>high</u>;</li> <li>2. average;</li> <li>3. below average;</li> <li>4. low.</li> </ol>	The dissertation is written in clear, precise, and well-structured academic language. It demonstrates a strong command of scientific terminology and maintains logical flow and coherence throughout all sections.
11	Comments on the dissertation		No remarks. The dissertation fully complies with academic requirements and is suitable for public defense.
12	Scientific level of the doctoral student's articles on the research topic (In the case of defending the dissertation in the form of a series of articles, official reviewers comment on the scientific level of each article related to the research topic)		

13	Decision of the official reviewer (in accordance with clause 28 of the current Standard Regulation)	Following a comprehensive review of the dissertation focused on the medical and social needs of older adults in the Republic of Kazakhstan, I affirm that the research fully adheres to the scientific criteria expected of a PhD dissertation. The results offer valuable contributions to both scientific understanding and the improvement of the national healthcare system. Therefore, I petition the Committee for Quality Assurance in the Field of Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan to confer upon Kimatova Kerbez Naushaevna the academic degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).
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**Official reviewer:**  
**PhD, Associate Professor of the School of Public Health,**  
**Karaganda Medical University**

**Bolatova Zhanerke Erlanovna**

