

Critical Appraisal Checklist for an Article on Qualitative Research

Note that the checklist are really looking for problems of bias, confounding, low power, and poor validity

A. Was a qualitative approach appropriate?	Yes/No/Don't know
1. Did the study ask how or why something was taking place (e.g. how people experience illness, health services or how or why patients and health professionals behave the way they do)?	
2. Was there a clearly formulated question which may have been extended, refined or modified as the results accumulated)?	
B. Was the sampling strategy clearly defined and justified?	
3. Was the method of sampling (for both the subjects and the setting) adequately described?	
4. Did the investigators study a representative range of individuals and settings relevant to their question?	
5. Were the characteristics of the subjects defined?	
C. Has the researcher critically examined their own role, potential bias and influence?	
6. Has the researcher taken their background and perspective into account in the analysis? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is there a clear statement on the researcher's background and perspective and how this is likely to have influenced the results? 	
D. What method did the researcher use for collecting data?	
7. Have appropriate data sources been studied? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Did the author conduct a literature search? 	

8. Were the methods used reliable and independently verifiable?

- Audiotape, videotape, field notes?
- Were observations taken in a range of circumstances (e.g. at different times)?
- Was more than one method of data collection used (triangulation)?

E. What methods did the researcher use to analyse the data, and what quality control measures were implemented?	
<p>9. Did the authors use systematic methods to reduce their own biases influencing the results?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Did more than one researcher independently perform the analysis? ● Were explicit methods used to resolve differences of interpretation? ● Were explicit methods used to address negative or discrepant results? 	
F. What are the results?	
<p>10. What are the main findings of the research?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are they coherent? ● Do they address the research question? 	
<p>11. Are the results credible?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are they consistent with the data? ● Is it possible to determine the source of data presented (e.g. by numbering of extracts)? ● Is most or all of the information collected available for independent assessment? 	
<p>12. Have alternative explanations for the results been explored and discounted?</p>	
G. Were conclusions valid?	

13. What were the authors' conclusions? ● Were they consistent with the data and results?	
H. To what extent are the findings of the study transferable to other clinical settings?	
14. Were the subjects in the study similar in important respects to my own patients?	
15. Is the context similar to my own practice?	