

Critical Appraisal Checklist for Qualitative Research

Name of paper / lead author:

Section A	
<p>1. Did the article describe an important clinical problem addressed via a clearly formulated question? (use PICO or PEO etc.)</p> <p>Yes No:</p> <p>P = I = C = O =</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Title or abstract; or at the end of the introduction.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>2. Was a qualitative approach appropriate?</p> <p>Consider: Does the research seek to understand or illuminate the experiences and/or views of those taking part.</p> <p>Yes: No:</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Introduction.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>3. Is it worth reading further?</p> <p>Yes: No:</p>	<p>Consider if your clinical scenario or question is sufficiently similar to that of the research article for it to be of interest / relevance.</p>

Section B: credibility of the research	
<p>4. Research Design: is a link made to existing theory or knowledge?</p> <p>Yes No:</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Introduction (and possibly discussion). Comments:</p>
<p>5. Research Design: does the method match the needs of the research question? (e.g. should interview questions be structured or open ended?)</p> <p>Yes: No:</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Methods. Comments:</p>

Section B: credibility of the research (continued)

<p>6. Participant selection and recruitment: How were participants identified or contacted? Consider: were those selected the most appropriate for the purpose of the study (details given of sampling strategy of participants and of setting)? Were participant inclusion / exclusion criteria given?</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Methods. Comments:</p>
<p>7. Participant selection and recruitment: Were details / reasons given of those who declined to take part?</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Methods. Comments:</p>
<p>8. Data Collection: what methods did the researcher use for collecting data? Consider: were appropriate data sources studied? Have data collections methods been described clearly and in enough detail? Was more than one method of data collection used? Were the methods reliable and independently verifiable (e.g. audiotape, video, field notes)</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Methods. Comments:</p>
<p>9. Data analysis: what methods did the researcher use to analyse the data, what quality control measures were implemented? Consider: how were themes or concepts derived from the data? Did more than one researcher perform the analysis, what method was used to resolve differences in interpretation? Were negative or discrepant results fully addressed or just ignored?</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Methods / analysis. Comments:</p>
<p>10. Data analysis and ethics: was the relationship between the researcher(s) and participant(s) explicit? Consider: what was the researcher's perspective? Had they critically examined their own role / biases / influences? Was it clear where data were collected and why that setting was chosen? How was the research explained to participants? Were statements given relating to confidentiality, ethical issues, implications and consequences? (for all the above).</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Methods / analysis / possibly discussion. Comments:</p>

Section C: Results	
<p>11. What are the results? Do they address the research question?</p> <p>Yes Unclear No</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Results. Comments:</p>
<p>12. Are the results credible? Consider: have they included examples of raw data / direct quotes; is it possible to determine source of data? Are explanations presented plausible and coherent?</p> <p>Yes Unclear No</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Results / discussion. Comments:</p>
<p>13. What conclusions were drawn? Are they justifiable by the results?</p> <p>Yes Unclear No</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Discussion / conclusion. Comments:</p>

Section D: Transferability of study findings	
<p>14. To what extent are the findings of the study transferable to other clinical settings? Consider: were participants in the study similar in important respects to your own patients? Is the context similar to your own practice? What can be learned from this research that is plausible / acceptable to apply elsewhere?</p> <p>Yes Unclear No</p>	<p>Where do I find this information? Discussion / Conclusions. Comments:</p>

Adapted from:

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Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP), Public Health Resource Unit, Institute of Health Science, Oxford.

Greenhalgh T. Papers that go beyond numbers (qualitative research). In: How to read a paper. The basics of evidence based medicine. BMJ Publishing Group, 1997