**Critical Appraisal Checklist for Qualitative Research**

**Name of paper / lead author:**

**Critical Appraisal Checklist for Qualitative Research**

**Section A: Question, study design and context**

**Is the research question clear?**

Yes No:

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**Was a qualitative approach appropriate? Consider: What is the research question being addressed in this paper? Does the research seek to understand or illuminate the experiences and/or views of those taking part?**

Yes: No:

**Was the context or setting adequately described**?

**Consider:** is it clear why the research important? Is the setting for this research study clear?

Yes: No:

**Section B: Method**

**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?

**Is the sample adequate to explore the range of subjects and settings, and has it been drawn from an appropriate population?** The sampling strategy should be appropriate and limitations should be justified.

**Participant selection and recruitment: Were details / reasons given of those who declined to take part?**

**Were the data collected appropriately?  
Consider:** were appropriate data sources studied? Have data collections methods been described clearly and in enough detail? Were the methods reliable and independently verifiable (e.g. audiotape, video, field notes)

**Data analysis: Was there evidence that the data analysis was rigorously conducted to ensure confidence in findings?** 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?

**Does the study adequately address potential ethical issues? (Method, results, discussion)**

**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).

**Limitations: Has consideration been given to any limitations of the methods or data that may have affected the results?**

**Section C: Results/Discussion**

**What are the results? Do they address the research question? Are findings substantiated by the data?**

Yes Unclear No

**What conclusions were drawn? Are they justifiable by the results?**

Yes Unclear No

**Section D: Transferability of study findings**

**To what extent are the findings of the study transferable to other maternity care settings?**

Yes Unclear No

Adapted and modified from: 1) Department of General Practice, University of Glasgow; 2) Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP), Public Health Resource Unit, Institute of Health Science, Oxford and 3) Kuper et al (2008) Qualitative research- critically appraising qualitative research. BMJ. 337: 687-9 3) Wallace et al. (2004)