

Supplemental file.4 Enhancing transparency in reporting the synthesis of qualitative research: ENTREQ Checklist

| No | Item | Guide and description | Page no and/or source data |
|----|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | Aim | State the research question the synthesis addresses. | 4 |
| 2 | Synthesis methodology | Identify the synthesis methodology or theoretical framework which underpins the synthesis, and describe the rationale for choice of methodology (e.g. <i>meta-ethnography, thematic synthesis, critical interpretive synthesis, grounded theory synthesis, realist synthesis, meta-aggregation, meta-study, framework synthesis</i>). | 4-5 |
| 3 | Approach to searching | Indicate whether the search was pre-planned (<i>comprehensive search strategies to seek all available studies</i>) or iterative (<i>to seek all available concepts until they theoretical saturation is achieved</i>). | 4-5 |
| 4 | Inclusion criteria | Specify the inclusion/exclusion criteria (e.g. <i>in terms of population, language, year limits, type of publication, study type</i>). | 4-5 |
| 5 | Data sources | Describe the information sources used (e.g. <i>electronic databases (MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, psycINFO, Econlit), grey literature databases (digital thesis, policy reports), relevant organisational websites, experts, information specialists, generic web searches (Google Scholar) hand searching, reference lists</i>) and when the searches conducted; provide the rationale for using the data sources. | 4-5 |
| 6 | Electronic Search strategy | Describe the literature search (e.g. <i>provide electronic search strategies with population terms, clinical or health topic terms, experiential or social phenomena related terms, filters for qualitative research, and search limits</i>). | 4-5 |
| 7 | Study screening methods | Describe the process of study screening and sifting (e.g. <i>title, abstract and full text review, number of independent reviewers who screened studies</i>). | 5 & Supplemental file 1 |
| 8 | Study characteristics | Present the characteristics of the included studies (e.g. <i>year of publication, country, population, number of participants, data collection, methodology, analysis, research questions</i>). | 6 & 7 and table 1 |
| 9 | Study selection results | Identify the number of studies screened and provide reasons for study exclusion (e.g. <i>for comprehensive searching, provide numbers of studies screened and reasons for exclusion indicated in a figure/flowchart; for iterative searching describe reasons for study exclusion and inclusion based on modifications to the research question and/or contribution to theory development</i>). | Fig.1 |
| 10 | Rationale for appraisal | Describe the rationale and approach used to appraise the included studies or selected findings (e.g. <i>assessment of conduct (validity and robustness), assessment of reporting (transparency), assessment of content and utility of the findings</i>). | 6 |
| 11 | Appraisal items | State the tools, frameworks and criteria used to appraise the studies or selected findings (e.g. <i>Existing tools: CASP, QARI, COREQ, Mays and Pope [25]; reviewer developed tools; describe the domains assessed: research team, study design, data analysis and interpretations, reporting</i>). | 5-6 |
| 12 | Appraisal process | Indicate whether the appraisal was conducted independently by more than one reviewer and if consensus was required. | 5 |
| 13 | Appraisal results | Present results of the quality assessment and indicate which articles, if any, were weighted/excluded based on the assessment and give the rationale. | 6-7 Supplemental file 2 |

Supplemental file.4 Enhancing transparency in reporting the synthesis of qualitative research: ENTREQ Checklist

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 14 | Data extraction | Indicate which sections of the primary studies were analysed and how were the data extracted from the primary studies? (<i>e.g. all text under the headings "results /conclusions" were extracted electronically and entered into a computer software</i>). | 5 & supplemental file 3. |
| 15 | Software | State the computer software used, if any. | 5 |
| 16 | Number of reviewers | Identify who was involved in coding and analysis. | 5 |
| 17 | Coding | Describe the process for coding of data (<i>e.g. line by line coding to search for concepts</i>). | 5 |
| 18 | Study comparison | Describe how were comparisons made within and across studies (<i>e.g. subsequent studies were coded into pre-existing concepts, and new concepts were created when deemed necessary</i>). | 5-6 |
| 19 | Derivation of themes | Explain whether the process of deriving the themes or constructs was inductive or deductive. | 6 |
| 20 | Quotations | Provide quotations from the primary studies to illustrate themes/constructs, and identify whether the quotations were participant quotations of the author's interpretation. | 10-12 |
| 21 | Synthesis output | Present rich, compelling and useful results that go beyond a summary of the primary studies (<i>e.g. new interpretation, models of evidence, conceptual models, analytical framework, development of a new theory or construct</i>). | 13 |