

## Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE)

### Questions to assist with the critical appraisal of qualitative studies<sup>1</sup>

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Citation:			
Study Design:			
1. Does the study address a clearly focused question/hypothesis	Yes	Can't tell	No
Setting?			
Perspective?			
Intervention or Phenomena			
Comparator/control (if any)?			
Evaluation/Exploration?			
2. Is the choice of qualitative method appropriate?  Is it an exploration of eg behaviour/reasoning/beliefs?  Do the authors discuss how they decided which method to use?			
3. Is the sampling strategy clearly described and justified?  Is it clear how participants were selected?  Do the authors explain why they selected these particular participants?  Is detailed information provided about participant characteristics and about those who chose not to participate?			

<p>4. Is the method of data collection well described?</p> <p>Was the setting appropriate for data collection?</p> <p>Is it clear what methods were used to collect data?</p> <p>Type of method (eg, focus groups, interviews, open questionnaire etc) and tools (eg notes, audio, audio visual recording).</p> <p>Is there sufficient detail of the methods used (eg how any topics/questions were generated and whether they were piloted; if observation was used, whether the context described and were observations made in a variety of circumstances?)</p> <p>Were the methods modified during the study? If YES, is this explained?</p> <p>Is there triangulation of data (ie more than one source of data collection)?</p> <p>Do the authors report achieving data saturation?</p>	
<p>5. Is the relationship between the researcher(s) and participants explored?</p> <p>Did the researcher report critically examining/reflecting on their role and any relationship with participants particularly in relation to formulating research questions and collecting data).</p> <p>Were any potential power relationships involved (ie relationships that could influence in the way in which participants respond)?</p>	
<p>6. Are ethical issues explicitly discussed?</p> <p>Is there sufficient information on how the research was explained to participants?</p> <p>Was ethical approval sought?</p> <p>Are there any potential confidentiality issues in relation to data collection?</p>	
<p>7. Is the data analysis/interpretation process described and justified?</p> <p>Is it clear how the themes and concepts were identified in the data?</p> <p>Was the analysis performed by more than one researcher?</p> <p>are negative/discrepant results taken into account?</p>	

<p><b>8. Are the findings credible?</b></p> <p>Are there sufficient data to support the findings?</p> <p>Are sequences from the original data presented (eg quotations) and were these fairly selected?</p> <p>Are the data rich (ie are the participants' voices foregrounded)?</p> <p>Are the explanations for the results plausible and coherent?</p> <p>Are the results of the study compared with those from other studies?</p>	
<p><b>9. Is any sponsorship/conflict of interest reported?</b></p>	
<p><b>10. Finally...consider:</b></p> <p>Did the authors identify any limitations?</p> <p>Are the conclusions the same in the abstract and the full text?</p>	
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p><i>Add comments relating to areas of concern that were avoidable and a statement indicating if the results are reliable and/or useful.</i></p>	

This checklist should be cited as:

Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE) 2018. Questions to assist with the critical appraisal of qualitative studies available at: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/specialist-unit-for-review-evidence/resources/critical-appraisal-checklists>

<sup>1</sup> Adapted and updated from the former Health Evidence Bulletins Wales (HEBW) checklist with reference to the [NICE Public Health Methods Manual](#) (2012) and previous versions of the [Critical Appraisal Skills Programme \(CASP\)](#) checklists.