

Name: _____

Making Sense of the Qualitative Literature

Three broad issues need to be considered when appraising an article.

- A. Are the results of the trial valid or credible?
- B. What are the results?
- C. Will the results help my patients?

- The questions below are designed to help you think about these issues systematically. The first two are screening questions and can be answered quickly. If the answer to all is YES, it is worth proceeding with the remaining questions.
- Record a Yes, No or Can't Tell to all questions

A. Are the results of the study valid or credible?		
1. Was there a clear statement of the purpose and aims of the research? <i>HINT:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were they trying to find out? • Why is it important? • What is its relevance? 	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	Outline the purpose of the study.
2. Is a qualitative methodology appropriate for this study?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
3. Was relevant background literature reviewed?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	Describe the justification of the need for this study.
4. Is the study design appropriate for the research question and objectives?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	Identify the study design.
5. Was a theoretical perspective identified?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	Describe the theoretical perspective.
6. Does the study describe the methods used to generate data?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	Describe the method(s) used to answer the research question.
7. Is the method of data gathering appropriate for the design type?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
8. Were participants relevant to the research question and was their selection well reasoned? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where was the sample selected & why? • Who was selected and why? • Is the sample size justified? 	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	Describe sampling methods used.
9. Was sampling done until saturation or redundancy in data was reached?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
10. Was informed consent obtained and is it clear why some individuals chose not to participate?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
11. Is there a clear & complete description of the site: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No participants: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No researcher's credentials: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No role of researcher: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No relationship w/participants <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Researcher's assumptions: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	Describe data collection methods. How were the data representative of the "whole picture"

(Adapted from: Giacomini, Cook. Users' Guides to the Medical Literature XXIII, JAMA 2000; 284: 357-362, Giacomini, Cook. Users' Guides to the Medical Literature XXIII, JAMA 2000; 284: 478-482, CASP 10 Question to help make sense of the literature <http://www.public-health.or.uk/casp/qualitative.html> and Law, Stewart, Letts, Pollock, Bosch, Westmorland. Guidelines for Critical Review Form – Qualitative Studies <http://www-fhs.mcmaster.ca/rehab/ebp/> <http://www-fhs.mcmaster.ca/rehab/ebp/pdf/qualguidelines.pdf> <http://www-fhs.mcmaster.ca/rehab/ebp/pdf/qualreview.pdf>)

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12. Was the data collection strategies comprehensive enough to support rich and robust descriptions of the observed events?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
13. Were the data collection methods appropriate for the research objectives and setting?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
14. Was the data analysis inductive and the findings adequately corroborated?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	Describe methods of data analysis. Were the methods appropriate? What alternative explanations were explored?
15. Were findings consistent with and reflective of data?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
16. Was a decision trail developed and rules of analysis reported?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
17. Was the process of transforming data into themes/codes described adequately?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
18. Did a meaningful picture of the phenomenon under study emerge?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
19. Was triangulation reported for: Sources/data <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Methods <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Researchers <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Theories <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
B. What are the results?		
20. Were conclusions appropriate given the study findings?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
21. Did the findings contribute to theory development and future practice or research?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
22. Does the study have an evocative and thorough description that describes a social phenomenon and draws theoretical insights in conclusion?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	Is there enough descriptive detail to evoke a vivid picture of the social setting or interactions studied? Does the author clearly illustrate key findings with excerpts from collected data?
23. How comprehensive and relevant are the theoretical conclusions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What major and minor concepts does the theory entail and how well defined are they?</i> • <i>What are the relationships between the conceptual categories?</i> • <i>Are these dynamics clearly described and do they make sense?</i> • <i>Are the concepts adequately developed and illustrated?</i> • <i>Where does the empirically generated theory fit in relation to existing theory and beliefs in the field?</i> 		

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C. Will the results help me care for my patient(s)?		
24. Does this study help me to understand the context of my practice?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
25. Does this study help me understand my relationships with my patients and their families?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
26. Are the findings of this study transferable to a wider population?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Can't Tell <input type="radio"/> No	
D. Application		
27. Based on the results of this study and discussion about the findings from previous studies, what are you going to do and why?		
Recommendation(s):		
Why:		