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Review template for qualitative evidence synthesis (QES)

VERSION 2023_11

Author, year, title:

_____

Reviewer:

Overall assessment of methodological limitations:

☐ Insignificant or minor

☐ Moderate

☐ Major

Comment:

Domain 1: Objective and selection criteria

		Yes	Unclear	No
a)	Was the objective of the evidence synthesis clearly described?	☐	☐	☐
b)	Were the selection criteria clearly described?	☐	☐	☐
c)	Were the selection criteria appropriate for the objective of the evidence synthesis?	☐	☐	☐
d)	Did the work follow a predetermined research plan?	☐	☐	☐
Methodological limitations domain 1:				
Insignificant or Minor ☐	Moderate ☐	Major ☐		

Domain 2: Literature search

		Yes	Unclear	No
a)	Was the search approach appropriate for the objective of the evidence synthesis?	☐	☐	☐
b)	Did the search strategy enable the literature relevant to the evidence synthesis to be captured?	☐	☐	☐
c)	Was the literature search conducted in appropriate databases and other types of sources?	☐	☐	☐
d)	Were the delimitations of the search strategy appropriate?	☐	☐	☐
e)	Were appropriate search methods, complementary to the electronic literature search used?	☐	☐	☐
Methodological limitations domain 2:				
Insignificant or Minor ☐	Moderate ☐	Major ☐		

Domain 3: Selection and assessment of studies

		Yes	Unclear	No
a)	Was the selection of studies carried out by at least two persons, independently of each other and by consensus?	☐	☐	☐
b)	Is sufficient information regarding included and excluded studies available?	☐	☐	☐
c)	Were the methodological limitations of relevant studies appropriately assessed, for example by using validated checklists?	☐	☐	☐
d)	Was the assessment of methodological limitations carried out by at least two persons, independently of each other and by consensus?	☐	☐	☐
Methodological limitations domain 3:				
Insignificant or Minor ☐	Moderate ☐	Major ☐		

Domain 4: Synthesis

	Yes	Unclear	No
a) Was the used synthesis method appropriate?	☐	☐	☐
b) Was the synthesis appropriately performed?	☐	☐	☐
c) Were the findings of the evidence synthesis clearly grounded in the included studies?	☐	☐	☐
d) Were the findings appropriately validated?	☐	☐	☐
Methodological flaws domain 4:			
Insignificant or Minor ☐	Moderate ☐	Major ☐	

Domain 5: Author reflexivity

	Yes	Unclear	No
a) Was the collective competence of the authors adequate to handle all steps of the evidence synthesis?	☐	☐	☐
b) Have the authors handled their preunderstanding in an acceptable way?	☐	☐	☐
c) Were the authors independent of conflicts of interest that could affect one or more steps in the work with the evidence synthesis?	☐	☐	☐
Methodological limitations domain 5:			
Insignificant or Minor ☐	Moderate ☐	Major ☐	

Domain 6: Other aspects

	Yes	Unclear	No
a) Are there other methodological limitations that may have affected the findings in the evidence synthesis?	☐	☐	☐

If yes, please describe the limitations here:

_____

Methodological limitations domain 6:		
Insignificant or Minor ☐	Moderate ☐	Major ☐

Domain 7: Assessing the confidence in the evidence synthesis findings

	Yes	Unclear	No
a) Has the confidence in the evidence synthesis findings been appropriately assessed?	☐	☐	☐
Methodological limitations domain 7:			
Insignificant or Minor ☐	Moderate ☐	Major ☐	

References

1. Tong A, Flemming K, McInnes E, Oliver S, Craig J. Enhancing transparency in reporting the synthesis of qualitative research: ENTREQ. BMC Med Res Methodol 2012;12:181.

2. Flemming, K. and J. Noyes, Qualitative Evidence Synthesis: Where Are We at? International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 2021;20:1-13.