

**CRITICAL APPRAISAL CHECKLIST FOR AN ARTICLE ON  
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH.**

**Study Design:** This is a generic checklist covering different types of qualitative research methodology, e.g. interviews, focus groups

**Adapted from:**

**Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP), Public Health Resource Unit, Institute of Health Science, Oxford.**

**Greenhalgh T. Papers that go beyond numbers (qualitative research). In: *How to read a paper. The basics of evidence based medicine*. BMJ Publishing Group, 1997.**

## IS THIS PAPER WORTH READING?

<p><b>1. Did the article describe an important clinical problem addressed via a clearly formulated question?</b></p>	Yes	Can't tell	No
<p><b>2. Was a qualitative approach appropriate?</b></p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the research seek to understand or illuminate the experiences and/or views of those taking part.</li> </ul>			

## ARE THE RESULTS CREDIBLE?

<p><b>3. Was the sampling strategy clearly defined and justified? In particular,</b></p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has the method of sampling (for both the subjects and the setting) been adequately described?</li> <li>Have the investigators studied the most useful or productive range of individuals and settings relevant to their question?</li> <li>Have the characteristics of the subjects been defined?</li> <li>Is it clear why some participants chose not to take part?</li> </ul>	Yes	Can't tell	No
<p><b>4. What methods did the researcher use for collecting data?</b></p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have appropriate data sources been studied?</li> <li>Have the methods used for data collection been described in enough detail?</li> <li>Was more than one method of data collection used?</li> <li>Were the methods used reliable and independently verifiable (e.g. audiotape, videotape, fieldnotes)?</li> <li>Were observations taken in a range of circumstances (e.g. at different times)?</li> </ul>			

<p><b>5. What methods did the researcher use to analyse the data, and what quality control measures were implemented?</b></p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How were themes and concepts derived from the data?</li> <li>• Did more than one researcher perform the analysis, and what method was used to resolve differences of interpretation?</li> <li>• Were negative or discrepant results fully addressed, or just ignored?</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Can't tell</b>	<b>No</b>
<p><b>6. Was the relationship between the researcher(s) and participant(s) explicit.</b></p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the researchers perspective?</li> <li>• Had the researcher critically examined his or her own role, potential bias and influence?</li> <li>• Was it clear where the data were collected and why that setting was chosen?</li> <li>• How was the research explained to the participants?</li> <li>• Confidentiality, ethics, implications and consequences for research findings for all of the above.</li> </ul>			

## WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

<p><b>7. What are the results, and do they address the research question?</b></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Can't tell</b>	<b>No</b>
<p><b>8. Are the results credible? For example,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have sequences from the original data been included in the paper (e.g. direct quotation)?</li> <li>• Is it possible to determine the source of data presented (e.g. by numbering of extracts)?</li> <li>• How much of the information collected is available for independent assessment?</li> <li>• Are the explanations presented plausible and coherent?</li> </ul>			

<p><b>9. What conclusions were drawn, and are they justified by the results? In particular, have alternative explanations for the results been explored?</b></p>			
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**ARE THE FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY TRANSFERABLE TO A WIDER POPULATION?**

<p><b>10. To what extent are the findings of the study transferable to other clinical settings?</b></p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were the subjects in the study similar in important respects to your own patients?</li> <li>• Is the context similar to your own practice?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Can't tell</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
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