

## Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ): 32-item checklist

### Developed from:

Tong A, Sainsbury P, Craig J. Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32-item checklist for interviews and focus groups. *International Journal for Quality in Health Care*. 2007. Volume 19, Number 6: pp. 349 – 357

### In using COREQ checklist, the main author has considered its limitations as discussed in:

Buus, N., & Perron, A. (2020). The quality of quality criteria: Replicating the development of the Consolidated Criteria for Reporting Qualitative Research (COREQ). *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 102, 103452–103452.

**MANUSCRIPT TITLE:** Care workers and managers' experiences of implementing infection control guidance in an epidemic context. A qualitative study in the South East of England, during the Covid-19 pre-vaccination era.

No. Item	Guide questions/description	Reported on Section - Page no, line no	Comments
<b>Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity</b>			
<i>Personal Characteristics</i>			
1. Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	Methodology- 5,140	
2. Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials? (E.g. PhD, MD)	Listed on page 1, 17-25	
3. Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	Methodology – 5,140	
4. Gender	Was the researcher male or female?		Both interviewers are women
5. Experience and training	What experience or training did the researcher have?	Methodology – 5,141	
<i>Relationship with participants</i>			
6. Relationship established	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	Methodology – 5, 160-161	No, interviewees and interviewers met for the first time as part of the study recruitment.
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher? (e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research).	Methodology – 5, 163-164	Information about the researchers' role and involvement were shared in the Participant Information Sheet and at times

			discussed during the interview, often in the initial or final part of the conversation where interviewee and interviewer introduced themselves or shared final comments on the interviews and overall study
8. Interviewer characteristics	<i>What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? (e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic)</i>	Methodology - 5	
<b>Domain 2: Study design</b>			
<i>Theoretical framework</i>			
9. Methodological orientation and Theory	<i>What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? (e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis).</i>	Methodology – 5, 136-137 & 172	Qualitative, semi-structured interviews and framework analysis
<i>Participant selection</i>			
10. Sampling	<i>How were participants selected? (e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball)</i>	Methodology – 5, 156-158	Mix of snowball and convenience sampling
11. Method of approach	<i>How were participants approached? (e.g. face- to-face, telephone, mail, email)</i>	Methodology – 5, 160-162	Via email or phone call
12. Sample size	<i>How many participants were in the study?</i>	Methodology – 5, 166	12. Sample size
13. Non-participation	<i>How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?</i>	N/A	First contact to identify participants were made through phone call or email to care home and homecare agencies. Many did not reply or couldn't pass on the details to the manager to eventually identify potential interviewees. All ten people who expressed interest in taking part in the study, proceeded to take part in the interview.

<i>Setting</i>			
14. Setting of data collection	<i>Where was the data collected? (e.g. home, clinic, workplace)</i>	Methodology – 5, 145-146	Online platform (Zoom)
15. Presence of non-participants	<i>Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?</i>	N/A	No
16. Description of sample	<i>What are the important characteristics of the sample? (e.g. demographic data, date)</i>	Methodology – 5-6, 166-167	Given the focus of the study, this overlaps with the inclusion/exclusion criteria. Interviewees were managers and care workers working in residential and domiciliary care in Kent, Surrey and Sussex during wave 1 of COVID-19
<i>Data collection</i>			
17. Interview guide	<i>Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?</i>	Methodology – 5, 142-144	Topic guide was revised by 2 Public Advisors
18. Repeat interviews	<i>Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many?</i>	N/A	No, this was not necessary for this study. Interviews were invited to share any follow-up comments via email but no one did.
19. Audio/visual recording	<i>Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?</i>	Methodology- 5, 146	Interviews were audio-recorded using Dictaphones.
20. Field notes	<i>Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group?</i>	N/A	No
21. Duration	<i>What was the duration of the interviews or focus group?</i>	Methodology – 5, 146	
22. Data saturation	<i>Was data saturation discussed?</i>	N/A	Due to methodological considerations, data saturation was not considered the standard to establish sample size as data saturation relies on the idea that meaning and themes are evident in data, rather than produced and interpreted. However, this was discussed and researchers agreed that

			interviews indicated the recurrence of the same themes. This was further confirmed when interim findings were shared and discussed with adult social care stakeholders in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.
23. Transcripts returned	<i>Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?</i>	N/A	This was given as an option. None of the interviewees enquired about the possibility of looking at the transcripts for comments.
<b>Domain 3: analysis and findings</b>			
<i>Data analysis</i>			
24. Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?	Data analysis-6, 174	
25. Description of the coding tree	<i>Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?</i>	Data analysis - 6,173	
26. Derivation of themes	<i>Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?</i>	Data analysis – 6, 176-177	Both. A thematic framework was organised according to the interview topic guide and themes were first identified using this framework. As the analysis progressed, themes were also derived from the interviews, allowing for further insights and nuances.
27. Software	<i>What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?</i>	Data analysis – 6, 175	NVivo 12
28. Participant checking	<i>Did participants provide feedback on the findings?</i>	N/A	Participants did not provide feedback on the findings directly. Researchers had concerns on research fatigue, especially as at the time of data collection and analysis, participant were under unprecedented stress and time pressure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, interim and final findings were discussed with

			public advisors and sector representatives, including providers and carers, throughout the implementation process.
<i>Reporting</i>			
29. Quotations presented	<i>Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotation identified? (e.g. participant number)</i>	Findings – 6-10 Table 1.	
30. Data and findings consistent	<i>Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?</i>	Discussion – 12-13	
31. Clarity of major themes	<i>Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?</i>	Findings –6-10 Table 1	
32. Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	Findings –6-10 Discussion – 12-13	