Supplement 2 – COREQ 32 checklist

No	Item	Guide questions/description	Response
Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity			
Personal Characteristics			
1.	Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	JN (p.10)
2.	Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials	PhD
3.	Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	Clinical neuropsychologist at the NRC, researcher and lecturer at the University Hospital Cologne
4.	Gender	Was the researcher male or female	Male
5.	Experience and training	What experience or training did the researcher have?	Systemic therapist and counselor with many years of experience in clinical patient-centered communication. (p.11)
Relationship with participants			
6.	Relationship established	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	Most, but not all the participants met the interviewer in his role as a neuropsychologist prior to the interviews. (p.11)
7.	Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher? *e.g., personal goals reasons for doing the research*	As part of the research team, the interviewer explained the ideas, design, and goals of the study to potential participants. Participants knew about the interviewer's clinical role. (p.11)
8.	Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? *e.g., bias, assumptions, reasons, and interests in the research topic*	Participants were informed that multiple sclerosis and the topic of the study was one of the researchers' preferred research areas. They were informed that the study was designed by the research team to gain a better understanding of fatigue and to find possible therapeutic ways to improve fatigue in the NRC. (p.11)
Domain 2: study design			
Theoretical framework			

9.	Methodological orientation and Theory	What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.*g., grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis*	Coding of the interviews was based on the approach of focused analysis for qualitative interviews, as described by Rädiker & Kuckartz (2020). (p.10)
Participant selection			
10.	Sampling	How were participants selected? *e.g., face-to-face, telephone, mail, email*	Face-to-face (p.8)
11.	Method of approach	How were participants approached? *e.g., face-to-face, telephone, mail, email*	Face-to-face (p.8)
12.	Sample size	How many participants were in the study?	12 (p.8)
13.	Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	Zero (p.8)
Setting			
14.	Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? *e.g., home, clinic, workplace*	Office in a rehab clinic. (p.10)
15.	Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	No
16.	Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample? *e.g. demographic data, date*	Important characteristics are sex, age, working capacity, functional disability, multiple sclerosis type, time since diagnosis, and fatigue, as reported in Table 2. (p.12)
Data collection			
17.	Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the	A guide was provided by the authors. It was pilot tested with

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		authors? Was it pilot tested?	two persons with multiple sclerosis prior to the start of the study. (p.9)
18.	Repeat interviews	Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many?	No repeat interviews were carried out.
19.	Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?	We used audio recordings. (p.10)
20.	Duration	What was the duration of the interviews or focus group?	Interviews had a median length of 11:55min, median length per group was 15:42min for MAT and 09:31min for SET. (p.12)
22.	Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed?	Data saturation was discussed briefly in the limitations section. (p.26)
23.	Transcripts returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction	No (p.26)
Domain 3: analysis and findings			
Data analysis			
24.	Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?	FW coded all interviews, while one Interview was coded together by FW and JN. (p.10)
25.	Description of the coding tree	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	The coding tree is provided in table 1. (p.13)
26.	Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	Initial codes were derived in advance from the interview guide. These were then adapted and expanded by data derived from the interviews. (p.10-11)
27.	Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	MAXQDA2022 (p.10)
28.	Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	No (p.26)
Reporting			
29.	Quotations presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings?	Yes (Results section)

		Was each quotation identified? *e.g., participant number*	
30.	Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	Yes
31.	Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	Yes
32.	Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	Yes