

Qualitative research

These are the questions that BMJ editors should consider when appraising papers presenting original qualitative research (although we don't routinely use a checklist for this):

- Was the research question clearly defined? **YES**
- Overall, did the researcher make explicit in the account the theoretical framework and methods used at every stage of the research? **YES**
- Was the context clearly described? **YES**
- Was the sampling strategy clearly described and justified? **YES**
- Was the sampling strategy theoretically comprehensive to ensure the generalisability of the conceptual analysis (diverse range of individuals and settings, for example)? **YES**
- How was the fieldwork undertaken? Was it described in detail? **YES**
- Could the evidence (fieldwork notes, interview transcripts, recordings, documentary analysis, etc) could be inspected independently by others: if relevant, could the process of transcription be independently inspected? **YES**
- Were the procedures for data analysis clearly described and theoretically justified? Did they relate to the original research questions? **YES** How were themes and concepts identified from the data?
- Was the analysis repeated by more than one researcher to ensure reliability? **YES – at different phases**
- Did the investigator make use of quantitative evidence to test qualitative conclusions where appropriate? **YES – reference to a separate cross-sectional component conducted by the author**
- Did the investigator give evidence of seeking out observations that might have contradicted or modified the analysis? **YES**
- Was sufficient of the original evidence presented systematically in the written account to satisfy the sceptical reader of the relation between the interpretation and the evidence (for example, were quotations numbered and sources given)? **YES**