

Appendix 1: Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ): 32-item checklist

Developed from:

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| No. Item | Guide questions/description | Reported on Section |
|--|---|--|
| Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity | | |
| <i>Personal Characteristics</i> | | |
| 1. Interviewer/facilitator | Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group? | Authors' Contributions |
| 2. Credentials | What were the researcher's credentials? E.g. PhD, MD | Authors' names and titles |
| 3. Occupation | What was their occupation at the time of the study? | Authors' affiliation |
| 4. Gender | Was the researcher male or female? | Authors' names and titles |
| 5. Experience and training | What experience or training did the researcher have? | Authors' names and titles, Methods/Interview Procedure section |
| <i>Relationship with participants</i> | | |
| 6. Relationship established | Was a relationship established prior to study commencement? | No |
| 7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer | What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research | Reasons for doing research - Methods/Interview Procedure section |
| 8. Interviewer characteristics | What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic | All the authors had a positive attitude towards mobile health technologies and online social networks, but the authors strived to remain neutral in the conversations with participants. |

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| Domain 2: study design | | |
| <i>Theoretical framework</i> | | |
| 9. Methodological orientation and Theory | What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis | Thematic analysis – Methods/Data Management and Analysis |
| <i>Participant selection</i> | | |
| 10. Sampling | How were participants selected? e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball | Purposive – Methods/Study Setting and Participants |
| 11. Method of approach | How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email | Methods/Study Setting and Participants |
| 12. Sample size | How many participants were in the study? | Methods/Study Setting and Participants |
| 13. Non-participation | How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons? | Methods/Study Setting and Participants |
| <i>Setting</i> | | |
| 14. Setting of data collection | Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace | Methods/Interview Procedure section |
| 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 | Table 2 |
| <i>Data collection</i> | | |
| 17. Interview guide | Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested? | Methods/Interview Procedure section |
| 18. Repeat interviews | Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many? | Methods/Interview Procedure section |
| 19. Audio/visual recording | Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data? | Audio |
| 20. Field notes | Were field notes made during and/or after the inter view or focus group? | Methods/Interview Procedure section |

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| 21. Duration | What was the duration of the interviews or focus group? | Methods/Interview Procedure section |
| 22. Data saturation | Was data saturation discussed? | Methods/Interview Procedure section |
| 23. Transcripts returned | Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction? | No |
| Domain 3: analysis and findings | | |
| <i>Data analysis</i> | | |
| 24. Number of data coders | How many data coders coded the data? | Methods/Data Management and Analysis |
| 25. Description of the coding tree | Did authors provide a description of the coding tree? | N/A |
| 26. Derivation of themes | Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data? | Methods/Data Management and Analysis |
| 27. Software | What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data? | Methods/Data Management and Analysis |
| 28. Participant checking | Did participants provide feedback on the findings? | No |
| <i>Reporting</i> | | |
| 29. Quotations presented | Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotation identified? e.g. participant number | Textboxes 1, 2, 3 |
| 30. Data and findings consistent | Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings? | Yes, there was. Results & Discussion |
| 31. Clarity of major themes | Were major themes clearly presented in the findings? | Yes, they were. Results & Discussion |
| 32. Clarity of minor themes | Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes? | Discussion of major and minor themes Results & Discussion |