

Appendix 1 The eMERGe meta-ethnography reporting guidance

Numbered criteria headings with explanatory reporting criteria	Page
Phase 1—Selecting meta-ethnography and getting started	
<i>Introduction</i>	
1 Rationale and context for the meta-ethnography Describe the gap in research or knowledge to be filled by the meta-ethnography, and the wider context of the meta-ethnography	4
2 Aim(s) of the meta-ethnography Describe the meta-ethnography aim(s)	4
3 Focus of the meta-ethnography Describe the meta-ethnography review question(s) (or objectives)	4
4 Rationale for using meta-ethnography Explain why meta-ethnography was considered the most appropriate qualitative synthesis methodology	4
Phase 2—Deciding what is relevant	
<i>Methods</i>	
5 Search strategy Describe the rationale for the literature search strategy	4/5
6 Search processes Describe how the literature searching was carried out and by whom	4/5
7 Selecting primary studies Describe the process of study screening and selection, and who was involved	5
<i>Findings</i>	
8 Outcome of study selection Describe the results of study searches and screening	16
Phase 3—Reading included studies	
<i>Methods</i>	
9 Reading and data extraction approach Describe the reading and data extraction method and processes	6
<i>Findings</i>	
10 Presenting characteristics of included studies Describe characteristics of the included studies	Table 1
Phase 4—Determining how studies are related	
<i>Methods</i>	
11 Process for determining how studies are related Describe the methods and processes for determining how the included studies are related: - Which aspects of studies were compared AND- How the studies were compared	6
<i>Findings</i>	
12 Outcome of relating studies Describe how studies relate to each other	17
Phase 5—Translating studies into one another	16
<i>Methods</i>	
13 Process of translating studies Describe the methods of translation: - Describe steps taken to preserve the context and meaning of the relationships between concepts within and across studies- Describe how the reciprocal and refutational translations were conducted- Describe how potential alternative interpretations or explanations were considered in the translations	16
<i>Findings</i>	
14 Outcome of translation Describe the interpretive findings of the translation.	17 to 28
Phase 6—Synthesizing translations	
<i>Methods</i>	
15 Synthesis process Describe the methods used to develop overarching concepts (“synthesised translations”)Describe how potential alternative interpretations or explanations were considered in the synthesis	16
<i>Findings</i>	
16 Outcome of synthesis process Describe the new theory, conceptual framework, model, configuration, or interpretation of data developed from the synthesis	Figure 1
Phase 7—Expressing the synthesis	

<i>Discussion</i> 17 Summary of findings Summarize the main interpretive findings of the translation and synthesis and compare them to existing literature	28 to 30
18 Strengths, limitations, and reflexivity Reflect on and describe the strengths and limitations of the synthesis: - Methodological aspects—for example, describe how the synthesis Findings were influenced by the nature of the included studies and how the meta-ethnography was conducted. - Reflexivity—for example, the impact of the research team on the synthesis findings	30
19 Recommendations and conclusions Describe the implications of the Synthesis	31

Reference: France et al. BMC Medical Research Methodology (2019) 19:25
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12874-018-0600-0>