

## Supplement 1. COREQ (CONsolidated criteria for REporting Qualitative research) Checklist

A checklist of items that should be included in reports of qualitative research. You must report the page number in your manuscript where you consider each of the items listed in this checklist. If you have not included this information, either revise your manuscript accordingly before submitting or note N/A.

Topic	Item No.	Guide Questions/Description	Reported on Page No.
<b>Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity</b>			
<i>Personal characteristics</i>			
Interviewer/facilitator	1	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	pg. 3
Credentials	2	What were the researcher's credentials? E.g. PhD, MD	Title page
Occupation	3	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	pg. 3
Gender	4	Was the researcher male or female?	N/A
Experience and training	5	What experience or training did the researcher have?	pg. 3
<i>Relationship with participants</i>			
Relationship established	6	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	pg. 2-3
Participant knowledge of the interviewer	7	What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research	pg. 2
Interviewer characteristics	8	What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic	N/A
<b>Domain 2: Study design</b>			
<i>Theoretical framework</i>			
Methodological orientation and Theory	9	What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis	pg. 3-4
<i>Participant selection</i>			
Sampling	10	How were participants selected? e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball	pg. 2-3
Method of approach	11	How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email	pg. 2-3
Sample size	12	How many participants were in the study?	pg. 4
Non-participation	13	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	N/A
<i>Setting</i>			
Setting of data collection	14	Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace	pg. 3
Presence of non-participants	15	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	N/A
Description of sample	16	What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g. demographic data, date	pg. 4, Table 1
<i>Data collection</i>			
Interview guide	17	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?	pg.3, Supp. 2
Repeat interviews	18	Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many?	N/A
Audio/visual recording	19	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?	pg. 3
Field notes	20	Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group?	pg. 3
Duration	21	What was the duration of the interviews or focus group?	pg. 3
Data saturation	22	Was data saturation discussed?	pg. 3
Transcripts returned	23	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or	N/A

Topic	Item No.	Guide Questions/Description	Reported on Page No.
		correction?	
<b>Domain 3: analysis and findings</b>			
<i>Data analysis</i>			
Number of data coders	24	How many data coders coded the data?	pg. 3-4
Description of the coding tree	25	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	N/A
Derivation of themes	26	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	pg. 3
Software	27	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	pg. 4
Participant checking	28	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	N/A
<i>Reporting</i>			
Quotations presented	29	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotation identified? e.g. participant number	pg. 4-9; Tbl. 2
Data and findings consistent	30	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	pg. 4-9
Clarity of major themes	31	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	pg.4-9
Clarity of minor themes	32	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	pg. 4-9

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

**Once you have completed this checklist, please save a copy and upload it as part of your submission. DO NOT include this checklist as part of the main manuscript document. It must be uploaded as a separate file.**

## **Supplement 2. Interview Guide\***

### **Main Questions**

Tell me about your most recent exacerbation or episode of worse breathing.

Please describe, in as much detail as you can, what happened during your exacerbation.

Please describe what you did during your exacerbation.

Tell me about any emotions you may have had during the exacerbation.

Tell me about deciding to seek (or not seek) care.

Were there any friends or family members involved during this exacerbation? If so, how were they involved?

Tell me about your past exacerbations, if any.

How did your recent exacerbation compare to past exacerbations?

### **Follow-up Questions**

How did the exacerbation start?

What symptoms did you notice?

How long did the exacerbation last?

What options did you consider?

Was anyone else involved in...?

What were you thinking?

What were you feeling?

What did you think would happen?

### **General Probes**

What do you mean by...

Give me an example of...

Walk me through...

Tell me more about...

What happened next?

Who is/was...?

Where is/was...?

\* Guide abbreviated for clarity and to highlight questions germane to analysis. Complete interview guide available through correspondence with the author.