Table S1. Qualitative Research Review Guidelines (RATS) checklist.

R - Relevance of study design Is research question interesting? stated Is research question relevant to clinical practice, public health, or policy? Research question justified and linked to the existing knowledge base (empirical research, theory, policy) A - Appropriateness of qualitative method Is qualitative method Is qualitative method lis qualitative method lis qualitative method Is qualitative method lis qualitative met	Ask this of the manuscript	This should be included in the manuscript	Where item has been addressed
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Research question justified and linked to the existing knowledge base (empirical research, theory, policy) A – Appropriateness of qualitative method (squalitative method) Is qualitative methodology the best approach for the study paims? Interviews: experience, perceptions, behavior, practice, process Focus groups: group dynamics, convenience, non-sensitive topics Ethnography: culture, perganizational behavior, interaction Textual analysis: documents, art, representations, conversations T – transparency of procedures Sampling Are the participants selected the most appropriate to provide access to the type of knowledge sought by the study? Is the sampling strategy appropriate? Pages 2 through to 6 Research question justified and plustified and justified and justified and justified e.g., why was a particular method (i.e., interviews) chosen? Pages 6 through to 8 Pages 6 through to 8 Pages 8 through to 8 Pages 9 through to 8 Pages 9 through to 8 Pages 9 through to 8 Pages 6 through to 8 Pages 8 Pages 6 through to 8 Pages 7 through to 8 Pages 8			Question provided on page 1 and objectives provided
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Was recruitment conducted conducted and by whom using appropriate methods?	Recruitment	Details of how recruitment was	Pages 6 through to 8
Details of who chose not to Pages 6 through to 8	Was recruitment conducted	conducted and by whom	
s the sampling strategy participate and why appropriate?		Details of who chose not to participate and why	Pages 6 through to 8

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		meaning, nomy detailed	

Was trustworthiness/reliability of the data and interpretations checked?	Method of reliability check described and justified e.g., was an audit trail, triangulation, or member checking employed?	Pages 8 through to 10 and Appendix Table 4A
	Did an independent analyst	
	review data and contest	
	themes? How were	
	disagreements resolved?	
Discussion and presentation	Findings presented with	Pages 18 through to 22
Are findings sufficiently	reference to existing	
grounded in a theoretical or conceptual framework?	theoretical and empirical literature, and how they contribute	
Is adequate account taken of		
previous knowledge and how the findings add?	Strengths and limitations explicitly described and discussed	Pages 22 and 23
Are the limitations thoughtfully		
considered?	Evidence following guidelines (format, word count)	Pages 1 through to 29 and Title page
Is the manuscript well written and accessible?	Detail of methods or additional	Appendix
	quotes, contained in appendix	Аррениіх
	Written for a health sciences audience	
Are red flags present?	Grounded theory; not a simple	-
These are common features of	content analysis but a complex,	
ill-conceived or poorly executed qualitative studies, are a cause	sociological, theory generating approach	
for concern, and must be viewed	Jargon: descriptions that are	
critically	trite or jargon filled should be viewed skeptically	
They might be fatal flaws, or		
they may result from lack of	Over interpretation:	
detail or clarity	interpretation must be grounded in "accounts" and	
	semi-quantified if possible or	
	appropriate	
	Seems anecdotal, self-evident:	
	may be a superficial analysis,	
	not rooted in conceptual	
	•	

Consent process thinly discussed: may not have met ethics requirements

Doctor-researcher: consider the ethical implications for patients and the bias in data collection and interpretation

¹ The RATS guidelines modified for BioMed Central are copyright Jocalyn Clark, BMJ. They can be found in Clark JP: **How to peer review a qualitative manuscript**. In *Peer Review Health Sciences*. Second edition. Edited by Godlee F, Jefferson T. London: BMJ Books; 2003:219-235