

## Supplementary Material

**Table S1. Enhancing the quality and the credibility of qualitative analysis.**

Criteria		Actions
1.	Triangulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using the results of the first stage of the current research to construct new research questions for the second stage of the research (a qualitative inquiry)</li> <li>- The data on self-medication was obtain using multiple source (literature review, different samples for the second phase of the research) and different methods (qualitative and quantitative), such as questionnaire and interviews</li> </ul>
2.	Credibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The interviews were audio recorded</li> <li>- The guide interview was revised with medical peers and social science experts</li> <li>- The coding process was detailed in the Table 1</li> <li>- The research was conducted with the approval of Ethical Committee of the Romanian Science Academy</li> <li>- The principal investigator has interest of the self-medication topic, i.e. Tarciuc et al. (2020). <i>Patterns and Factors Associated with Self-Medication among the Pediatric Population in Romania</i> <a href="https://doi.org/10.3390/medicina56060312">https://doi.org/10.3390/medicina56060312</a></li> </ul>
3.	Validity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- self-medication phenomenon was addressed via theoretical constructs coined in the past research and limits of the previous research have been identified</li> <li>- filed experts from Romanian Academy approve the study</li> <li>- qualitative analysis was perform taking into account the "rational subjectivity" of the participants;</li> <li>- the multidisciplinary background of the co-authors allow us to import relevant theoretical constructs on the phenomenon analyzed.</li> <li>- The results of the study were cross-reference and discussed.</li> <li>- Subjective meaning of self-medication behavior as described by the participants were taken into account and cited in the results section</li> <li>- Different interviews techniques (evaluation of other behaviors) were employed to avoid respondents' cognitive bias</li> </ul>
4.	Fidelity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The limit of the current research was mentioned.</li> <li>- When selecting and recruiting process particular criteria were identify and applied.</li> <li>- The similarities and contrasts with the previous self-medication research findings were identified.</li> </ul>