COREQ • 32-item reporting checklist

Manuscript: Palliative Care Professionals' Experiences of Providing Culturally Responsive Care in Portugal: A Qualitative Study

Based on Tong, Sainsbury and Craig (2007). Page references correspond to the revised manuscript.

No.	Checklist item	Guiding question / reporting criterion	Reported on page
DOMAIN 1 — Research team and reflexivity			
Personal characteristics			
1	**Interviewer/facilitator**	Identify the author(s) who conducted the interviews.	All interviews were conducted by the principal investigator. Page reference: 6.
2	**Credentials**	Give the interviewer's qualifications (such as degree or professional qualification).	The interviewer held a bachelor's degree and was enrolled in a master's programme at the time of data collection.Page reference: 6.
3	**Occupation**	State the interviewer's occupation at the time of data collection.	Master's student and employee of a company operating in the social sector. Page reference: 6
4	**Gender**	State the interviewer's gender.	Male. The principal investigator who conducted all interviews was male. Page reference: 6.
5	**Experience and training**	Describe the interviewer's experience and relevant training.	The principal investigator had training in palliative care and qualitative research methods.Page reference: 6.
Relationship with participants			
6	**Relationship established**	Describe any relationship with participants established before the study.	No prior personal or professional relationship existed between the interviewer and the participants.Page reference: 6.
7	**Participant knowledge of interviewer**	Describe what participants knew about the interviewer or the reasons for the research.	Participants were informed that the interviewer was a master's student conducting academic research on cultural competence in palliative care, oriented by two teachers with Phd. Page reference: 6.
8	**Interviewer characteristics**	Describe relevant interviewer assumptions, interests or potential influences.	"The interviewer described his professional background, motivation for studying cultural competence, and potential influence on data interpretation. The findings were discussed collectively within the research team." Page reference: 6.
DOMAIN 2 — Study design			
Theoretical framework			
9	**Methodological orientation and theory**	State the qualitative orientation or analytic framework used.	"The study adopted a descriptive qualitative design. Data were analysed using a primarily inductive, codebook-supported thematic approach informed by Braun and Clarke."Page references: 4 and 7.
Participant selection			
10	**Sampling**	Explain the sampling approach used to select participants.	"Participants were recruited through convenience sampling, complemented by snowball sampling (participant referrals)."Page references: 4–5.

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11	**Method of approach**	Indicate how potential participants were contacted or invited.	“Potential participants were identified through professional contacts, healthcare institutions, and participant referrals. Recruitment was conducted by the principal investigator and the master's programme coordinator, with invitations also sent by email.”Page reference: 5
12	**Sample size**	Report the number of study participants.	“The final sample comprised 10 palliative care professionals.”Page references: 4–5 and 8.
13	**Non-participation**	Report refusals, withdrawals and their reasons, if known.	“Of the 25 professionals approached, 10 participated and 15 did not respond to the invitation. No explicit refusals were reported, and the reasons for non-participation were unknown.”Page reference: 5.
Setting			
14	**Setting of data collection**	Describe where the interviews/data collection took place.	“Individual semi-structured interviews were conducted remotely via Zoom between January and March 2025” Page reference: 5.
15	**Presence of non-participants**	State whether anyone else was present during interviews.	No. Only the principal investigator and the respective participant were present during each interview.Page reference: 6.
16	**Description of sample**	Summarise demographic and relevant sample characteristics.	“The sample comprised 10 palliative care professionals from four professional groups, working in hospital-based and community-based settings. Sociodemographic and professional characteristics are presented in Table 1.”Page references: 8–9.
Data collection			
17	**Interview guide**	Describe or provide the interview guide and indicate piloting if any.	“The semi-structured interview guide was developed based on the study objectives and relevant literature. It was reviewed by the research supervisors, pilot-tested in four preliminary interviews, and subsequently refined. The pilot interviews were excluded from the final analysis. The interview guide is provided as Supplementary Material S1.” Page references: 5–6.
18	**Repeat interviews**	Indicate whether repeat interviews occurred.	No. Each of the 10 participants was interviewed once; no repeat interviews were conducted.Page reference: 6.
19	**Audio/visual recording**	Report on whether interviews were recorded by audio or video.	“All 10 interviews were audio-recorded in MP3 format and subsequently transcribed manually in Portuguese by the principal investigator.” Page references: 6–7.
20	**Field notes**	State whether the researcher made field notes during or after interviews.	Yes. Field notes were recorded after each interview to complement the audio recordings and interview transcripts. Page reference: 6.
21	**Duration**	Report on interview length or range of durations.	“Interview duration ranged from 6 minutes and 18 seconds to 16 minutes, with a mean duration of 8 minutes.” Page reference: 6.
22	**Data saturation**	Indicate if and how saturation was considered.	“The research team monitored the emergence of new themes throughout data collection and analysis. No new overarching thematic dimensions were identified after approximately the eighth interview, although subsequent interviews added contextual detail. This was interpreted as indicative of thematic saturation, but saturation was not formally assessed.” Page references: 6 and 26.

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23	**Transcripts returned**	State whether transcripts were returned to interviewees for comment.	“Yes. Interview transcripts were returned to participants for review and possible correction. No participants requested changes.” Page references: 6 and 8.
DOMAIN 3 — Analysis and findings			
Data analysis			
24	**Number of data coders**	Report on who and how many people coded the data.	“Three researchers—the principal investigator and the two master's supervisors—independently performed the initial coding of all 10 interview transcripts. Codes and interpretations were subsequently discussed within the research team.”Page reference: 7.
25	**Description of coding tree**	Describe the thematic structure or coding hierarchy.	“The manuscript describes the development of a codebook and the grouping of codes into subthemes and overarching themes. Table 2 presents the resulting thematic structure, comprising three overarching themes and 14 subthemes. A complete code-by-code coding tree is not presented.” Page references: 7 and 9–11.
26	**Derivation of themes**	Clarify whether themes were inductive or specified in advance.	“Codes and themes were developed primarily inductively from participants' accounts, using a codebook-supported thematic approach. Although the interview guide addressed predefined topics, Campinha-Bacote's model was not used to establish coding categories in advance; it was considered after the initial thematic structure had been developed, as an interpretative reference.” Page reference: 7.
27	**Software**	Indicate software used for managing or coding the qualitative data, if any.	“Data coding and organisation were conducted manually using Microsoft Word. No specialised qualitative data analysis software was used.” Page reference: 7.
28	**Participant checking**	State whether participants commented on or verified findings.	No. Interview transcripts were returned to participants for verification, and no corrections were requested. The final thematic findings were not returned to participants for validation. Page references 8 and 27.
Reporting			
29	**Quotations presented**	Illustrate findings with attributable participant quotations.	Yes. Participant quotations are presented to illustrate the findings and are identified using participant codes (P1–P10) and professional roles. Page references: 11–20.
30	**Data and findings consistent**	Show alignment between quoted material and interpretations.	The relationship between the data and the findings is illustrated through participant quotations and accompanying interpretative text throughout the thematic results. Page references: 11–20
31	**Clarity of major themes**	Present the central themes clearly.	Yes. Three overarching themes are clearly identified in Table 2 and presented in separate subsections of the thematic results. Page references: 9–20.

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32	**Clarity of minor themes**	Present subthemes, nuances or less frequent cases.	Yes. Fourteen subthemes are identified in Table 2 and described within the three overarching themes, with participant quotations illustrating the findings and variations in reported experiences. Page references: 9–20.

Source: Tong A, Sainsbury P, Craig J. Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32-item checklist for interviews and focus groups. Int J Qual Health Care. 2007;19(6):349–357. doi:10.1093/intqhc/mzm042.