

Workshop

Assessing confidence in the evidence from reviews of qualitative research

GRADE CERQual

11 December 2023
WHO EMRO

Systematic reviews of qualitative research (also known as qualitative evidence syntheses) are increasingly used to bring together findings from qualitative studies. GRADE-CERQual is an approach for assessing how much confidence to place in findings from qualitative evidence syntheses.

This online workshop has the following overall learning objectives:

- To explore why and when it might be useful to include evidence from qualitative research in healthcare decisions
- To introduce and discuss the GRADE-CERQual approach for assessing confidence in the evidence from reviews of qualitative research
- To apply the GRADE-CERQual approach to an example of review findings from qualitative evidence syntheses

During the workshop, we will discuss the topics listed above and apply the CERQual approach through group exercises.

Joining the workshop

The workshop will be held online. Joining details will be sent to you.

Workshop facilitators

- Prof Claire Glenton, Department of Health and Functioning, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL), Norway and Cochrane Norway
- Prof Simon Lewin, Department of Health Sciences in Ålesund, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway; Cochrane People, Health Systems and Public Health Thematic Group; Health Systems Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council, South Africa; and Centre for Epidemic Interventions Research (CEIR), Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway

Workshop programme (Cairo time)

Time	Session
12.00-12.10	Introduction and overview
12.10-12.15	Using Qualitative Evidence Syntheses in evidence-informed decision making
12.15-12.25	An introduction to Qualitative Evidence Synthesis
12.25-12.50	An introduction to GRADE-CERQual + Q A
12.50-13.20	Assessing the relevance component of GRADE-CERQual
13.20-13.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
13.30-13.55	Assessing the methodological limitations component of GRADE-CERQual
13.55-14.30	Assessing the coherence component of GRADE-CERQual
14:30-14:50	Assessing the adequacy component of GRADE-CERQual and making an overall GRADE-CERQual assessment
14:50-15:00	Wrap-up

Preparing for the workshop

In advance of the workshop, we would be grateful if you could read the following materials:

- Lewin S, Booth A, Glenton C et al. Applying GRADE-CERQual to qualitative evidence synthesis findings: introduction to the series. *Implementation Science* 2018, **13 (Suppl 1)**:2. <https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13012-017-0688-3>
 - *This article is the first of a seven-part series providing guidance on how to apply the GRADE-CERQual approach. Papers 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 in this series discuss each GRADE-CERQual component. Paper 2 discusses how to make an overall assessment of confidence in a review finding and how to create a Summary of Qualitative Findings table.*
- Glenton C, Lewin S, Norris SL. Using evidence from qualitative research to develop WHO guidelines (Chapter 15). In: World Health Organization. Handbook for Guideline Development (2nd edition). Geneva: WHO. 2016. Available [here](#).
 - *This chapter, written for the WHO, outlines how qualitative evidence can be used in guideline processes*

For participants who are new to the field of qualitative evidence synthesis:

- Jane Noyes' podcast on undertaking a qualitative evidence synthesis in the context of Cochrane: <https://training.cochrane.org/resource/undertaking-qualitative-evidence-synthesis-support-decision-making-cochrane-context>
- Ruth Garside's podcast on methods for synthesizing qualitative evidence: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3T2ib9RvI4>
- Emma France's podcast on qualitative evidence synthesis and meta-ethnography: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPYL3oAwb4Q>

During and following the workshop

The lectures listed below will be delivered during the workshop. You can use the online versions below to recap the lectures following the workshop:

- Session 1: [Using qualitative evidence syntheses in evidence-informed decision making](#)
- Session 2: [An introduction to qualitative evidence synthesis](#)
- Session 3: [An introduction to GRADE-CERQual](#)
- Session 4: [Assessing the relevance component of GRADE-CERQual](#)
- Session 5: [Assessing the methodological limitations component of GRADE-CERQual](#)
- Session 6: [Assessing the coherence component of GRADE-CERQual](#)
- Session 7: [Assessing the adequacy component of GRADE-CERQual](#)
- Session 8: [Making an overall assessment in GRADE-CERQual](#)

Further resources are available through the [GRADE-CERQual](#) website. Further resources on the interactive Summary of Qualitative Findings (iSoQ) platform can be found [here](#).