Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ): 32-item checklist

No	Item	Guide questions/description	Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity				
Personal Characteristics				
1	Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	page 7/lines 177-184	methods/paragraph 5
2	Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials? e.g. *PhD, MD*	page 7/lines 177-184	methods/paragraph 5
3	Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	page 7/lines 177-184	methods/paragraph 5
4	Gender	Was the researcher male or female?	page 7/lines 177-184	methods/paragraph 5
5	Experience and training	What experience or training did the researcher have?	page 7/lines 177-184	methods/paragraph 5
Relationship with participants				
6	Relationship established	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	page 6/lines 160-161	methods/paragraph 3
7	Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. *personal goals, reasons for doing the research*	page 6/lines 161-167	methods/paragraph 3
8	Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. *Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic*	page 6/lines 160-167	methods/paragraph 3
Domain 2: study design				
Theoretical framework				
9	Methodological orientation and Theory	What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g. *grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis*	pages 6-7/lines 157-203	methods/paragraphs 3-6
Participant selection				
10	Sampling	How were participants selected? e.g. *purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball*	page 6/lines 149-153	methods/paragraph 1
11	Method of approach	How were participants approached? e.g. *face-to-face, telephone, mail, email*	page 6/lines 161-163 &	methods/paragraph 3 &
12	Sample size	How many participants were in the study?	page 8/lines 234-235 &	results/paragraph1 &
13	Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	page 8/lines 234-235 &	results/paragraph1 &

Setting				
14	Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? e.g. *home, clinic, workplace*	pages 6-7/lines 175-177 &	methods/paragraph 5 &
15	Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	page 6/line 175 & page	methods/paragraph 5 &
16	Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g. *demographic data, date*	page 8/lines 250-263 &	results/paragraphs 4-5 &
Data collection				
17	Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?	page 6/lines 168-174	methods/paragraph 4
18	Repeat interviews	Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many?	N/A (no repeat interviews)	N/A (no repeat interviews)
19	Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?	pages 6-7/lines 176-177	methods/paragraph 5
20	Field notes	Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group?	page 7/lines 180-186	methods/paragraph 5
21	Duration	What was the duration of the interviews or focus group?	page 6/lines 159-160	methods/paragraph 3
22	Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed?	page 7/lines 186-188	methods/paragraph 5
23	Transcripts returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?	N/A (transcripts not	N/A (transcripts not
Domain 3: analysis and findingsz				
Data analysis				
24	Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?	page 7/lines 181-184	methods/paragraph 5
25	Description of the coding tree	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	page 7/lines 184-186	methods/paragraph 5
26	Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	page 7/lines 180-181	methods/paragraph 5
27	Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	pages 6-7/lines 176-177	methods/paragraph 5
28	Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	page 7/lines 190-202	methods/paragraph 5
Reporting				
29	Quotations presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotation identified? e.g. *participant number*	page 8/lines 234-248	results/paragraphs 1-3
30	Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	page 8/lines 234-248	results/paragraphs 1-3
31	Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	page 9/lines 268-286 &	results/paragraphs 7-10 &
32	Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	pages 31-35/lines 575-578	results/paragraphs 7-10 &

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*As the checklist was provided upon initial submission, the page number/line number reported may be changed due to copyediting and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.

STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

Section/item	Item No	Recommendation	Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	methods/paragraph 5	methods/paragraph 5
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	pages 6-7/lines 176-177	methods/paragraph 3
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	page 7/lines 181-184	introduction/paragraphs 1-2
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	methods/paragraph 5	page 7/lines 184-186
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	methods/paragraph 5	page 7/lines 180-181
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	methods/paragraph 5	methods/paragraphs 1-2
Participants	6	(a) ***Cohort study***—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up ***Case-control study***—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls ***Cross-sectional study***—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	page 6/lines 151-155	methods/paragraph 1
		(b) ***Cohort study***—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed ***Case-control study***—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case	methods/paragraph 5	N/A
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	page 7/lines 190-202	results/paragraphs 1-3
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	methods/paragraph 5	page 8/lines 234-248
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	pages 6-7/lines 176-177	page 8/lines 234-248
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	results/paragraphs 1-3	page 9/lines 268-286 &
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	results/paragraphs 7-10 & figures/figure 2	pages 31-35/lines 575-578

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	results/paragraphs 7-10 &	methods/paragraphs 7-9
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	pages 7-8/lines 215-231	methods/paragraph 9
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	Article Information:	methods/paragraphs 7-8
		(d) ***Cohort study***—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed ***Case-control study***—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed ***Cross-sectional study***—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	N/A	N/A
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	pages 7-8/lines 215-231	methods/paragraph 9
Results				
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	page 8/lines 234-235 & lines 250-252	results/paragraphs 1 & 4
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	page 8/lines 234-235 &	results/paragraphs 1 & 4
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	page 30/lines 554-556	figures/figure 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	page 8 & 16-19/lines 250-263 & 529-531	results/paragraphs 4-5 & tables/table 1
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	pages 16-19/lines 529-531	tables/table 1
		(c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	N/A	N/A
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	N/A	N/A
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	N/A	N/A
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	pages 8-9 & 30-31/lines	results/paragraphs 7-11 &
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	pages 8-10/lines 268-320	results/paragraphs 7-18
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	pages 9-10/lines 289-319	results/paragraphs 12-18
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	N/A	N/A
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	pages 9-10/lines 289-319	results/paragraphs 12-18
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	page 10/lines 322-331	discussion/paragraph 1
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	page 10/lines 332-346	discussion/paragraphs 2-3

Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	pages 10-11/lines 322-395	discussion/paragraphs 1-9
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	pages 10-11/lines 332-358	discussion/paragraphs 2-4
Other information				
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	page 12/lines 412-414	acknowledgements/paragraph 1

*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at http://www.plosmedicine.org/, Annals of Internal Medicine at http://www.annals.org/, and Epidemiology at http://www.epidem.com/). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.

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