9.6 Quality assessment of qualitative studies

Quality assessment of qualitative studies

The ENTREQ (see Table 1 in the report at the ENTREQ link) guides reporting of qualitative studies but is not a quality assessment checklist.

An excellent summary of the issues relating to quality assessment of qualitative studies has been prepared by the Cochrane Collaboration’s Qualitative Methods Group.

There are many checklists that have been published for assessing the quality of qualitative studies including the CASP and the Joanna Briggs Institute QARI Critical Appraisal Tool. Few (if any) include decision rules; few justify items by clarifying the source of bias addressed by an item; most combine reporting recommendations with quality assessment items; some provide confusing decision rules. We searched literature for common quality assessment items and we developed decision rules. The item set continues to be refined and can be downloaded here.