Evaluative Criteria for Qualitative Research in Health Care: Controversies and Recommendations

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Abstract

PURPOSE We wanted to review and synthesize published criteria for good qualitative research and develop a cogent set of evaluative criteria.

METHODS We identified published journal articles discussing criteria for rigorous research using standard search strategies then examined reference sections of relevant journal articles to identify books and book chapters on this topic. A cross-publication content analysis allowed us to identify criteria and understand the beliefs that shape them.

RESULTS Seven criteria for good qualitative research emerged: (1) carrying out ethical research; (2) importance of the research; (3) clarity and coherence of the research report; (4) use of appropriate and rigorous methods; (5) importance of reflexivity or attending to researcher bias; (6) importance of establishing validity or credibility; and (7) importance of verification or reliability. General agreement was observed across publications on the first 4 quality dimensions. On the last 3, important divergent perspectives were observed in how these criteria should be applied to qualitative research, with differences based on the paradigm embraced by the authors.

CONCLUSION Qualitative research is not a unified field. Most manuscript and grant reviewers are not qualitative experts and are likely to embrace a generic set of criteria rather than those relevant to the particular qualitative approach proposed or reported. Reviewers and researchers need to be aware of this tendency and educate health care researchers about the criteria appropriate for evaluating qualitative research from within the theoretical and methodological framework from which it emerges.

Key Words:
- Qualitative research
- Methodology
- Health care research

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identify aspects of quality, which require attention in future research. Methods: Qualitative research studies on dental topics were appraised using the critical appraisal skills programme (CASP) appraisal framework for qualitative research. The percentage of CASP criteria fully met during the assessment was used as an indication of the quality of each paper. Read More. The Annals of Family Medicine Volume 6 issue 4 2008 [doi 10.1370%2Fafm.818] Cohen, D. J.; Crabtree, B. F. -- Evaluative Criteria for Qualitative Research in Health Care- Controversies and Recommendations. Representation of Women Experiences in the Iran National Skills Competition. JD-exevo. Research: The Assessment of Trustworthiness Laura Krefting Key Words: research, research design, social sciences Despite a growing interest in qualitative research in occupational therapy, little attention has been placed on establishing its rigor. Guba's Model of Trustworthiness of Qualitative Research Researchers need alternative models appropriate to qualitative designs that ensure rigor without sacrificing the relevance of the qualitative research.