

Tu14-15 Planning Your Review

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Process of Qualitative Evidence Synthesis (Major & Savin-Baden 2010)

Identify Studies related to research question



Collate Qualitative Studies across chosen topic



Examine theories and methods used in each study in-depth



Compare and Analyse findings for Each Study



Synthesise findings for each study



Undertake interpretation of findings across studies



Present interpretive narrative about synthesis of findings



Provide series of recommendations

Conducting a meta-ethnography (Atkins et al 2008)

- **Step 1: Getting started**
- **Step 2: Deciding what is relevant to the initial interest**
- **Step 3: Reading the studies**
- **Step 4: Determining how studies are related**
- **Step 5: Translating studies into one another**
- **Step 6: Synthesising translations**
- **Step 7: Expressing the synthesis**

Seven Key Questions

1. Question as Starting Point or Review Product
2. Comprehensive Searching versus Sampling
3. Qualitative Data Versus Qualitative Research
4. Appraisal for Exclusion or Moderation
5. Participants' Comments and/or Authors' Interpretations
6. Theory Secure or Evolving
7. Theory Generating/Theory Validating/Other

Other Considerations

- Relationship with Quantitative Syntheses
 - Pre-existing Review
 - Sequentially
 - In Parallel
 - *[Iteratively]*
 - *[Combined Methods versus Separate Methods]*
- *To include: Any Qualitative Research? OR Specific methods? OR only well-described methods and thick detail of findings?*

Example: Preliminary searching: Scoping is worth investing in.... (Noyes & Roberts, 2009)

Time to rethink already!:

- Published trials of contraceptive technologies excluded women over 40 years
- Many trials conducted by pharmaceutical companies – not in public domain other than news releases to promote product
- Barriers and facilitators to accessing services frequently measured by surveys (not just qualitative studies)

What does the Field look like?

- Some Tools

- **PubMed Health Services Research Special Queries**

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hedges/search.html>

- **PubMed Reminer**

- <http://bioinfo.amc.uva.nl/human-genetics/pubreminer/>

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Queries Targeted for Clinicians and Health Services Researchers

<p>Clinical Queries</p>	<p>A search interface to find citations in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Study Categories: Find citations corresponding to a specific clinical study category. • Systematic Reviews: Find citations for systematic reviews, meta-analyses, reviews of clinical trials, evidence-based medicine, consensus development conferences, and guidelines. • Medical Genetics: Find citations related to various topics in medical genetics.
<p>Electronic Health Records</p>	<p>PubMed search and links to other electronic health records information resources</p>
<p>Comparative Effectiveness Research</p>	<p>Specialized searches of published research and research in progress to help inform investigations of comparative effectiveness</p>
<p>Health Services Research (HSR) Queries</p>	<p>A search interface to find PubMed citations relating to health care quality or to health care costs</p>
<p>Cancer Topic Searches</p>	<p>A search interface to retrieve PubMed citations on more than 100 major cancer topics</p>

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[Ways of coping in stressful situations and anxiety-state or anxiety-trait among women with symptoms of perinatal depression](#)

21. Podolska MZ, Majkowicz M, Sipak-Szmigiel O, Ronin-Walknowska E.
Ginekol Pol. 2009 Mar;80(3):201-6. Polish.
PMID: 19382612 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
[Related citations](#)

[Women's attitudes, preferences, and perceived barriers to treatment for perinatal depression.](#)

22. Goodman JH.
Birth. 2009 Mar;36(1):60-9.
PMID: 19278385 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
[Related citations](#)

[A randomized controlled trial of culturally relevant, brief interpersonal psychotherapy for perinatal depression.](#)

23. Grote NK, Swartz HA, Geibel SL, Zuckoff A, Houck PR, Frank E.
Psychiatr Serv. 2009 Mar;60(3):313-21.
PMID: 19252043 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE] **Free Article**
[Related citations](#)

[Intention to seek depression treatment in adolescent mothers and a comparison group of adolescent girls.](#)

24. Logsdon MC, Usui W, Pinto-Foltz M, Rakestraw VL.
Arch Psychiatr Nurs. 2009 Feb;23(1):41-9. Epub 2008 Oct 15.
PMID: 19216987 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
[Related citations](#)

[Seeking help for anxiety and depression after childbirth: results of the Maternal Health Study.](#)

25. Woolhouse H, Brown S, Krastev A, Berden S, Gunn J

Find related data

Database:

Search details

```
{ ("depression, postpartum"[MeSH Terms] OR ("depression"[All Fields] AND "postpartum"[All Fields]) OR "postpartum depression"[All
```

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33	<input type="checkbox"/>	2008	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	BJOG	P	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	BARNETT B	P	239	242	<input type="checkbox"/>	HUMAN *	182	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult
22	<input type="checkbox"/>	2007	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	BMJ	P	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	DENNIS CL	P	236	239	<input type="checkbox"/>	FEMALE	112	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pregnancy
23	<input type="checkbox"/>	2006	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Birth	P	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	MATTHEY S	P	235	639	<input type="checkbox"/>	GROUP *	86	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression, Postpartum/diagnosis
11	<input type="checkbox"/>	2005	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aust N Z J Psychiatry	P	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUSTIN MP	P	211	615	<input type="checkbox"/>	POSTPARTUM	14	-	Depression, Postpartum/diagnosis/psychology
26	<input type="checkbox"/>	2004	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	J Adv Nurs	P	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	MILGROM J	P	203	933	<input type="checkbox"/>	WOMEN *	11	-	Depression, Postpartum/diagnosis/epidemiology/psycho
19	<input type="checkbox"/>	2003	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Br J Psychiatry Suppl	P	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEIN A	P	183	367	<input type="checkbox"/>	SCALE *	8	-	Depression, Postpartum/diagnosis/ethnology
14	<input type="checkbox"/>	2002	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	J Psychosom Res	P	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	BUIST A	P	182	204	<input type="checkbox"/>	ADULT *	7	-	Depression, Postpartum/diagnosis/psychology/therapy

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<http://www.mendeley.com/groups/518691/cochrane-qes-register/>

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A realist synthesis of evidence relating to practice development: recommendations

Brendan McCormack, Jayne Wright, Belinda Dewar, Gill Harvey, Kay Ballantine in *Practice Development in Health Care (2007)*

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A realist synthesis of evidence relating to practice development: methodology and methods

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Some Practicalities

- Use of/Selection of Methodological Filters
- Key studies for Citation Searching
- Examples of Data Extraction Forms
- Selection of Critical Appraisal Checklist
- Selection of Synthesis Method
 - [See Following Slide]
- Innovative Ways of Presentation

Toolbox Texts

- Popay J, Roberts H, Sowden A et al. (2006) ***Guidance on the Conduct of Narrative Synthesis in Systematic Reviews: a Product from the ESRC Methods Programme.***
- Barnett-Page E, Thomas J. Methods for the synthesis of qualitative research: a critical review. *BMC Med Res Methodol.* 2009 Aug 11;9:59. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/9/59>
- Barnett-Page, E and Thomas, J (2009) *Methods for the synthesis of qualitative research: a critical review.* NCRM Working Paper. NCRM. (Unpublished) <http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/690/1/0109%2520Qualitative%2520synthesis%25200methods%2520paper%2520NCRM.pdf>
- Dixon-Woods M, Agarwal S, Young B et al (2006). ***Integrative approaches to qualitative and quantitative evidence.*** Health Development Agency http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/pdf/Integrative_approaches_evidence.pdf
- Pope C, Mays N & Popay J. **Synthesizing Qualitative and Quantitative Health Evidence: A Guide to Methods.** ISBN: ISBN: 033521956X **Open University Press.**
- Thomas J, Harden A (2008) Methods for the thematic synthesis of qualitative research in systematic reviews *BMC Medical Research Methodology* 8:45 <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/8/45>

Conclusions

- Question may involve experience of Condition as well as Intervention studies
- Scoping is Time Well-Spent
- Searching will be more challenging
- Sifting will be more time-consuming
- Allow extra time for Interpretation
(Synthesis is not an End but a Means!)