
Duration	1 day
Skill level	Introductory
Target Audience	This is an introductory workshop targeted for Healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, decision makers who are interested in learning about the methodology and processes involved in planning and conducting a QES.
Prerequisites	Have a basic knowledge of health research. Are interested in learning more on the methodology of a Qualitative Evidence Synthesis.
Venue/No. participants	Aras Moyola (MY336), NUI Galway /25
Registration fee	General €80, Student €40

Background

Health care policy and practice decisions should be based on a synthesis of the global body of evidence rather than relying on individual studies. Evidence Synthesis Ireland promotes evidence based healthcare policy and practice by supporting high quality, relevant systematic reviews including the synthesis of qualitative evidence.

Aim

This workshop provides authors, with an interest in learning more about the QES process, with a comprehensive overview of the approaches to and the methods for qualitative evidence synthesis. It offers an insight to the development of a protocol, introducing participants to, search methods, selecting studies, assessing the quality of studies, data extraction and approaches to synthesis.

Learning outcomes

In this course participants will be enabled to:

- Understand the basic principles of a qualitative evidence synthesis

- Identify the purpose and scope of a QES
- Understand search methods and apply these methods to a search strategy
- Discuss the criteria for selecting studies
- Assess the quality of studies
- Discuss the principles involved in extracting and synthesising findings from a QES.
- Identify the process of application of Grade CERQual to QES findings.

Teaching strategies

The workshop will consist of a mixture of short presentations, led by members of the ESI teaching faculty covering each of the stages of developing a QES, small group activities based around worked examples and exercises and plenary discussions, providing participants with the opportunity to discuss and develop their understanding of the QES process. Participants' will also be provided with a short reading list in advance of the workshop.

Facilitators

Pauline Meskell, Maura Dowling, Linda Biesty.

Course content/timetable

Introduction to Qualitative Evidence Synthesis from Conception to Completion

08:30	Registration and coffee
09:00	Welcome, introduction of presenters and outline of presentations
09:15	Introducing Qualitative Evidence Syntheses (QES): An overview of QES including key QES types and methods.
09:45	Focusing Your Review Question (Plenary Session and Exercise)
10:30	Break
10.45	Searching for Qualitative Evidence (Guided Search Example)
11:15	Screening and Inclusion processes, Selecting Studies and Extracting Data (Exercise)
12:30	Lunch
13.15	Assessing the Quality of Studies

- 13:45 Choosing a Method of Synthesis: Overview of Thematic, Framework and Meta-ethnography
- 14.45 Generating Themes Organising and Interpreting the Findings
- 1530 CERQual and Grading the Evidence
- 1600 Close