

Introduction to Qualitative Evidence Synthesis (QES) from Conception to Completion

Duration	1 day
Skill level	Introductory
Target Audience	Healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, decision makers and Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows who have identified a QES review topic and are ready to begin working on their protocol.
Prerequisites	Have a basic knowledge of health research. Are interested in learning more on the methodology of a Qualitative Evidence Synthesis.
Venue/No. participants	Pheonix suite, Aishling Hotel, Dublin/40
Registration fee	Xxx

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, at the beginning of 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.

This workshop will provide researchers with a comprehensive overview of the approaches to and methods for the synthesis of qualitative evidence.

Learning outcomes

In this course participants will be enabled to:

- Understand the basic principles of a qualitative evidence synthesis
- Identify the scope of their review
- Understand search methods and apply these methods to their search strategy
- Apply the criteria for selecting studies
- Assessing the quality of studies
- Understand the principles of extracting and synthesising findings from a QES.
- Understand the 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, Catherine Houghton, Linda Biesty.

Course content/timetable

<i>Introduction to Qualitative Evidence Synthesis from Conception to Completion</i>	
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	Searching for Qualitative Evidence (Guided Search Example)
11:00	Break
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	Break
15:15	Generating Themes Organising and Interpreting the Findings
15:45	CERQual and Grading the Evidence
1630	Close