



EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS
I R E L A N D



Cochrane
Ireland

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

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. Cochrane Ireland and Evidence Synthesis Ireland promote evidence-based healthcare policy and practice by supporting high quality, relevant synthesised research evidence. Qualitative evidence synthesis (QES) is a process of scientific enquiry aimed at reviewing and rigorously integrating the findings of qualitative research. The primary aim is to interpret isolated, qualitative findings systematically and rigorously to inform healthcare policy and improve patient care. It is increasingly acknowledged that QES can play a valuable role in Cochrane Reviews and an integral component of evidence synthesis nationally and internationally.

Aim

This workshop provides authors, at the beginning of the QES process, with a comprehensive overview of qualitative evidence synthesis and how Cochrane QES reviews are structured. It offers an insight into the development of a Cochrane protocol, introducing participants to Cochrane methodology, search methods, data extraction and meta-synthesis.

Date/Time:

9 & 10 November 2021
09:30-13:30 each day

Skill level:

Introductory

Prerequisites:

Have a basic knowledge of health research.
Are interested in learning more about the methodology of a Qualitative Evidence Synthesis.

Places:

30

Fee:

€100 (General)
€85 (Early Bird)
€50 (Student)

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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
- Understand the principles of extracting and synthesising findings from a QES
- Understand the application of Grade CERQual to QES findings.

Target Audience

Healthcare professionals, academics, researchers and Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows who have identified a QES review topic and are ready to begin working on their protocol.

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. Breakout rooms will be used for 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:

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Course content/timetable

Day 1 - 9th November	
09:30	Welcome, introduction of presenters and outline of presentations
09:40	Introducing Qualitative Evidence Syntheses (QES): An overview of QES, including key QES types and methods.
10:10	Focusing Your Review Question (Plenary Session and Exercise)
10:30	Break
10:45	Searching for Qualitative Evidence (Guided Search Example)
11:30	Screening and Inclusion processes, Selecting Studies and Extracting Data (Exercise)
12:30	Assessing the Quality of Studies
13:30	Close

Day 2 - 10th November	
09:30	Recap of day 1
10:00	Choosing a Method of Synthesis: Overview of Thematic, Framework and Meta-ethnography
11:00	Break
11:15	Generating Themes Organising and Interpreting the Findings
11:45	CERQual and Grading the Evidence
13:00	Q&A session
13:30	Close

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