



EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS IRELAND

Conducting Time-limited or resource-constrained qualitative evidence syntheses: rapid QES, QES updates and overviews (“TIME-FLIES”)

Background

Qualitative evidence synthesis has become a particular growth area within evidence synthesis and systematic reviews. It is becoming increasingly difficult to explore a health or social care topic without encountering one or more qualitative evidence syntheses (QESs). At the same time there is increasing pressure from decision-makers in policy or practice to provide timely answers to issues that relate to the acceptability, feasibility and meaningfulness of health and social care interventions. This workshop will explore three different but related routes to providing qualitative evidence within resource-limited contexts – the rapid QES, the overview of multiple QESs and the update of one or more QESs.

Aim

The aim of this workshop is to open up and fully explore the variety of responses to a demand for synthesising qualitative research speedily and efficiently. We have designed this workshop to allow attendees to apply what they learn to any type of qualitative evidence synthesis, regardless of whether it is standard or resource-constrained, with tips for productive and efficient working.

Objectives

The objective of this workshop is to provide participants with a toolkit of methods to plan and deliver a variety of QES-related outputs and the skills required to deliver them.

Date:

22nd May 2024

Time:

10:00 – 16:00

Location:

University of Galway

Skill Level:

Intermediate

Prerequisites:

A working knowledge of qualitative evidence synthesis methods.

Facilitator:

Prof. Andrew Booth

Professor in Evidence Synthesis, Sheffield Centre for Health and Related Research (SCHARR), University of Sheffield and Adjunct Professor - University of Limerick

Places:

20 places available for individuals who are resident on the island of Ireland

Fee:

General €180;

Student €70

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Learning outcomes

In this course participants will be enabled to:

- develop an understanding of how standard QES procedures can be abbreviated or accelerated to accommodate time or resource constraints
- identify how to craft a review question that is feasible within tight time-constraints
- explore methods for searching and selecting relevant qualitative studies that optimise yield within a pre-specified timeframe
- develop alternative time-efficient approaches to assessment of the methodological limitations of qualitative research studies
- gain proficiency in targeted methods of data extraction and rapid qualitative data synthesis
- explore concise and meaningful strategies for presenting and reporting the findings of a rapid QES, QES update or overview of QESs (mega-synthesis)

Target Audience:

Healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, decision makers, librarians, information specialists, and Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows and teaching faculty who would like to learn more about alternatives to standard qualitative evidence syntheses, particularly when time is tight or resources are constrained.

Teaching Strategies:

The workshop will consist of a mixture of short presentations and facilitated discussions led by one of the co-authors of the forthcoming Cochrane/Campbell Handbook of Qualitative Evidence Synthesis. Breakout rooms will be used for small group activities based around real-life examples and challenges. These activities will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss and develop their own skills and understanding. Participants will also be provided with a reading list and additional resources.

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Course content/timetable

22nd May 2024	
10:00	Welcome and introductions
10:15	Presentation: Why QES? What are they good for?
10:45	Practical exercise 1 in small groups: Planning a QES – what are my options?
11:15	Presentation and discussion of small group exercise 1
11:30	Break
11:45	Presentation and practical exercise 2: Introducing the Rapid QES
12:45	Feedback from practical exercise 2
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Interactive presentation: Updating a QES – when and how?
14:30	Presentation: “Going large”: the Overview of QESs
14:50	Practical exercise 3 in small groups: What type of overview?
15:15	Break
15:30	Presentation and discussion of small group exercise 3
15:45	Wrap up and summary
16:00	Close

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