

Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ): 32-item checklist

Developed from:

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No. Item	Guide questions/description	Manuscript section and page number where it is reported
Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity		
<i>Personal Characteristics</i>		
1. Interviewer/facilitator	The interviews were conducted by qualified trained research assistants fluent in English and Runyankore	Methods, data collection; page 8
2. Credentials	6 of the researchers/authors have PhDs, 1 has MD and Master of Medicine in Paediatrics and 1 has a Bachelor of science in Nursing(BScN) and Master of Science in microbiology	N/A
3. Occupation	The researchers/authors are academicians and health workers employed by universities and hospitals	Title page, institutions of affiliation; page 1
4. Gender	2 of the research assistants were female and 1 was a male.	Methods, data collection; page 8
5. Experience and training	2 of the research assistants (PT and OC) are social scientists while 1(BK) is nurse. They all have previous experience in carrying out qualitative research.	Methods, data collection; page 8
<i>Relationship with participants</i>		
6. Relationship established	No relationship was established before commencement of data collection	N/A
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer	The participants did not know about the researcher and were only informed about the research during the informed consent process.	N/A
8. Interviewer characteristics	The research assistants had prior experience in carrying out qualitative interviews fluent in in English and Runyankore, the dialect spoken in Mbarara	Methods, data collection; page 8
Domain 2: study design		

<i>Theoretical framework</i>		
9. Methodological orientation and Theory	Grounded theory and content analysis were employed in this study	Analytic process, page 9
<i>Participant selection</i>		
10. Sampling	Purposive sampling was used for participant selection	Methods, sampling and recruitment; page 7
11. Method of approach	Participants were approached face-to-face at their places of work by the cooperation of their supervisors	Methods; page 7 to 8
12. Sample size	There were 43 participants and were determined through data saturation	Methods, sampling and recruitment; page 8
13. Non-participation	All participants approached for the study accepted to take part and none withdrew consent.	Methods, sampling and recruitment; page 8
<i>Setting</i>		
14. Setting of data collection	The data was collected at the work places of the respondents which included clinics and offices	Methods, data collection; page 8
15. Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	Methods, data collection; page 8
16. Description of sample	Majority of the respondents had been in service for greater than 1 year and were health workers with different qualifications.	Results, table 2; page 10
<i>Data collection</i>		
17. Interview guide	Questions in the interview guide were provided by the authors however the research assistants prompted where it was necessary. The research assistants were trained on the guide and it was piloted on 3 participants	Methods, data collection; page 8
18. Repeat interviews	Repeat interviews were not carried out	N/A
19. Audio/visual recording	All the interviews were audio recorded	Methods, data collection; page 8
20. Field notes	A few field notes made during the interviews but this is not reported in the manuscript. The research assistants used them together with the audio recordings during the transcription process.	N/A
21. Duration	Each interview lasted approximately 60 minutes.	Methods, data collection; page 8
22. Data saturation	Data saturation was used to determine the sample size.	Methods, sampling and recruitment; page 8
23. Transcripts returned	The transcripts were not returned to participants for comment and/or correction	N/A
Domain 3: analysis and findings		

<i>Data analysis</i>		
24. Number of data coders	2 of the authors coded the data	Analytic process; page 9
25. Description of the coding tree	The description of the coding tree has been provided by the authors	Analytic process; page 9
26. Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	Methods
27. Software	ATLAS.ti (GmbH, Berlin)	Analytic process; page 9
28. Participant checking	Participants did not provide feedback on the findings?	N/A
<i>Reporting</i>		
29. Quotations presented	Participant quotations are presented to illustrate the themes/findings and each quotation is identified by the gender, qualification and location of workplace of the respondent.	Results; pages 11 to 17
30. Data and findings consistent	There is consistency between the data presented and the findings	Discussion; pages 18 to 20
31. Clarity of major themes	Major themes are clearly presented in the findings	Results; pages 10 to 17
32. Clarity of minor themes	Minor themes are explained and clarified with in the discussion section.	Discussion, pages 18 to 20