Oral Presentation

Reporting Qualitative Research in Health Informatics: REQ–HI Recommendations

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BACKGROUND

- High value for qualitative research in Health Informatics (e.g., Ash et al. 2007)
  - The first study in the field, formative, complex phenomenon
  - Contextual, subjective, inductive
- Challenges:
  - Difficult to compare the results of different qualitative studies
- STARE-HI guidelines (Talmon et al. 2009)
  - Was not developed well for qualitative HIT studies
AIM

To develop a set of **recommendations** for authors of qualitative studies in the field of **health informatics** on how to **present** their research **clearly** and **comprehensively**

- Compare and use for evidence base practice
METHODS

A literature review (1990 to September 2010)

• Materials:
  • Databases: PubMed, Medline, google, and googlescholar
  • Papers, guidelines, and checklists specific for assessing or reporting of qualitative studies

• Additional ref.:
  • a number of journals (e.g., Int. J. Qualitative Methods, ….)
  • the reference list of identified articles, the website of Qualitative Research in IS

• Analysis:
  • Thematic synthesis on the basis of the main sections
FINDINGS (1/3)

Selection of 48 papers

- Abstract
  - main subheadings remain the same except Results → Findings
- especial care about Methods section: data collection methods, data type, sampling, …
- Keywords
  - MeSH headings: “qualitative research” & “focus groups”
FINDINGS (2/3)

• Introduction
  • the rational behind the study
  • the rationale behind the study method
  • the research question

• Methods
  • sufficient information to assess the rigor of data collection process and the data analysis and interpretation.
  • data type, collection methods, participants, research team and reflexivity, and analysis
FINDINGS (3/3)

• Findings
  • main findings in relation to the research question
  • giving an account of the data and of its interpretation
  • presenting direct participant quotations or field notes

• Discussion
  • answer research question
  • generalizability of findings
  • transferability to other settings
  • critical discussion of the findings/interpretations (reflexivity, credibility)
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

• Diversity of methods
  • Cover relevant issues for HIT research per each qualitative method
• Soliciting expert opinions
• Conducting a literature review of qualitative HIT research
  • to test and/or to further refine the REQ-HI
• Workshop during future MIEs or Medinfos
Thank you

We will be very pleased to receive your comments or recommendations on the REQ-HI

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