Additional file 1: Key definitions relevant to CERQual

**Adequacy of data:** an overall determination of the degree of richness as well as the quantity of data supporting a review finding [1].

**Coherence of the review finding:** how clear and cogent the fit is between the data from the primary studies and a review finding that synthesizes that data [2].

**Confidence in the evidence:** an assessment of the extent to which a review finding is a reasonable representation of the phenomenon of interest [1].

**Dissemination bias in qualitative research:** a systematic distortion of the phenomenon of interest due to selective dissemination of qualitative studies or the findings of qualitative studies [1].

**Methodological limitations:** the extent to which there are concerns about the design or conduct of the primary studies that contributed evidence to an individual review finding [1].

**Phenomenon of interest:** the issue that is the focus of the qualitative inquiry – that is, “what we want our research to understand...[]... explain, or describe” [3](p129).

**Relevance:** the extent to which the body of data from the primary studies supporting a review finding is applicable to the context specified in the review question [1].

**Review finding:** An analytic output (e.g., a theme, category, thematic framework, theory or contribution to theory) from a qualitative evidence synthesis that, based on data from primary studies, describes a phenomenon or an aspect of a phenomenon [1].

References

