Reviewer's report

Title: How to do a grounded theory study: a worked example.

Version: 1 Date: 20 July 2011

Reviewer: Naomi Elliott

Reviewer's report:

This paper clearly achieves its objective of providing a worked example of grounded theory and demonstrating its usefulness in medical research. The grounded theory inductive approach and how this translates into research practice is evident throughout the account of the research process. The research methods are explained clearly, so that other researchers can follow how the methods could be used in their own healthcare research. The accompanying tables and boxes provide useful explanations of grounded theory terms and examples of how interview schedules are developed, of data analysis and of how memoing is used to support data analysis and conceptual development. Understanding how to apply theoretical sampling in research practice can be difficult for many researchers and Figure 1 demonstrates it clearly by detailing the sequence of events and showing how theoretical sampling is used to pursue lines of enquiry arising from data analysis. This paper provides a useful model or example for future researchers seeking guidance on how to write up grounded theory research reports for audiences in medical healthcare contexts.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'