Reviewer’s report

Title: Using the Framework Method for the analysis of qualitative data in multi-disciplinary health research

Version: 1 Date: 20 May 2013

Reviewer: Ethel Quayle

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This is an interesting and informative manuscript that will be accessible to novice qualitative researchers as well as those working within a research consortium.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. It would be useful for the reader to have a better understanding of how Framework, outside of being systematic, differs from other thematic approaches.

2. The use of CAQDAS is discussed as a way of organising and retrieving material from a large data set. This is positioned as useful but not essential, and NVivo 8 is given as an example in relation to the cited study. It is made clear that such software does not generate the analysis, but it is not introduced until Stage 5 of the analysis (Applying the analytical framework) which, I would suggest, is unusual and might be seen as confusing. Most researchers coming to qualitative analysis are likely to want to systematically use CAQDAS from the outset (if they choose to use it) in relation to managing the data, particularly with regard to coding, and creating memos. It is also the case that NVivo 10 now supports Framework analysis and generates framework matrices.

3. More guidance could be given to managing quality within qualitative research generally, and Framework analysis specifically. This is an area that has exercised the community of qualitative researchers and, in relation to other approaches such as IPA, has led to clear guidelines about the number of respondents required to ‘evidence’ a particular ‘theme’ in order to be included in the analysis (e.g. Smith, 2011).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.