

Title:

- Does the title accurately reflect what the article describes? (This is usually completed after reading the entire article)

Problem Statement/Purpose/Aims:

- Is the problem statement/purpose or aims (for qualitative) fully described?
- Is there clarity with the problem statement/purpose or aims?

Theory/Conceptual Framework:

- Does it align with the purpose and run throughout the research article?
- Usually not described in the medical literature
- Some journals require the author to state their conceptual framework
- Is there congruity between the stated philosophical perspective and the research methodology (qualitative)?
- Is there a statement locating the researcher culturally or theoretically (qualitative)?
- Is the influence of the researcher on the research, and vice versa, addressed (qualitative)?

Review of the Literature:

- Was the review of the literature sufficient enough that you, as the reader, felt informed about:
 - The significance of doing this work
 - How this work builds off of other work and is related to the problem statement/purpose or aims of the study

Hypotheses (if applicable):

Methodology:

- Is there congruity between the research methodology and the research question or objectives (qualitative)?
- Is there congruity between the research methodology and the methods used to collect data (qualitative)?
- Is the research ethical according to current criteria, or for recent studies, is there evidence of ethical approval by an appropriate body?

• ***Sampling/Data Collection:***

- Was the assignment to treatment groups truly random (RCT)?
- Were participants blinded to treatment allocation?
- Was allocation to treatment groups concealed from the allocator?
- Were the criteria for inclusion in the sample clearly defined?
- Is the sample representative of patients in the population as a whole?
- Are the patients at a similar point in the course of their condition/illness?

• *Design:*

- If comparisons are being made, was there sufficient description of the groups?
- Has bias been minimized in relation to selection of cases and controls (in cohort studies or case control studies)?
- Were the control and treatment groups comparable at entry?
- Were groups treated identically other than for the named interventions?
- Are confounding factors identified and strategies to deal with them stated?
- Is there congruity between the research methodology and the representation and analysis of data (qualitative)?

• *Variables & Instruments:*

- Are outcomes assessed using objective criteria?
- Was follow up carried out over a sufficient time period?
- Were the outcomes of people who withdrew described and included in the analysis?
- Were outcomes measured in a reliable way?
- Were those assessing outcomes blind to the treatment allocation?
- Were outcomes measured in the same way for all groups?
- Were outcomes measured in a reliable way?

• *Procedure:*

- All sections described in enough detail that you, the reader, can think about internal and external validity or believable and generalizable (for qualitative)

Statistical Tests/Data Analysis & Interpretation:

- Were appropriate statistical analyses used for quantitative studies?
- For qualitative studies, is there alignment between the researcher's interpretations and the data?
- Do the research findings agree with the presented data (Applies to both qualitative and quantitative)?

Findings:

- Are the findings statistically and/or clinically significant (quantitative)?
- Are the findings supported by the participants' voices (qualitative)?
- Can some or all of the findings be applied to your practice setting?

Discussion:

- Does the discussion section link back to the review of literature and conceptual framework?
- Do the findings of the study agree or disagree with prior research?
- Does this section describe the implications for practice, education, administration, and research?

Tables, Figures, References, Abstract:

- Do the tables and figures enhance what the text describes?
- Are the references current (within past 5 years), varied (from different journals/disciplines), and deep?
- Does the abstract convey in an abbreviated way what the article described?

Questions noted in each section are provided to guide your review of the paper. You may find it helpful to answer questions or to note issues more broadly and annotate the source (paper).