



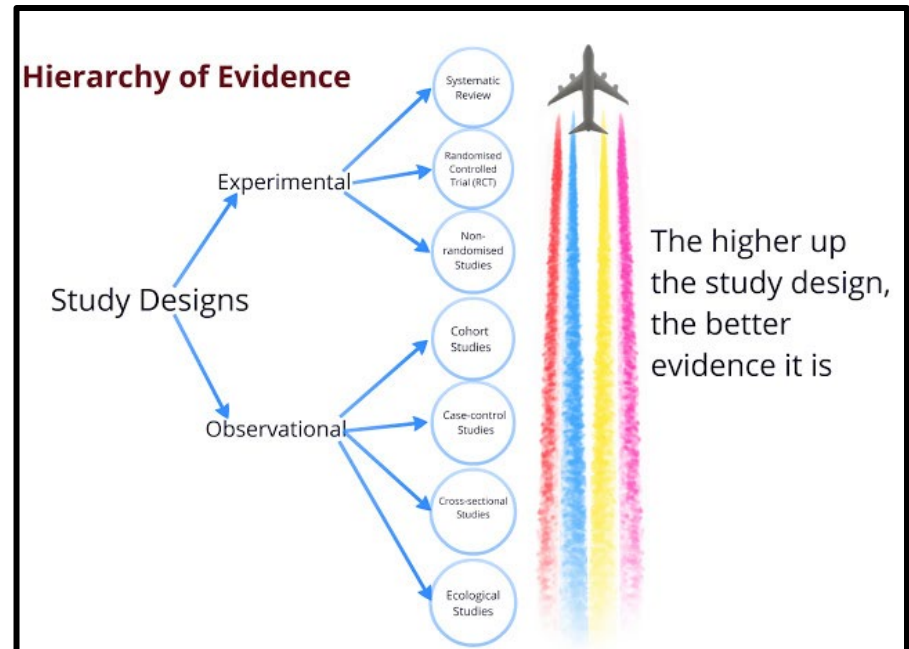
Professor Jane Noyes

Qualitative Evidence
Synthesis: Grade-CERQual
approach for assessing
confidence in synthesised
findings

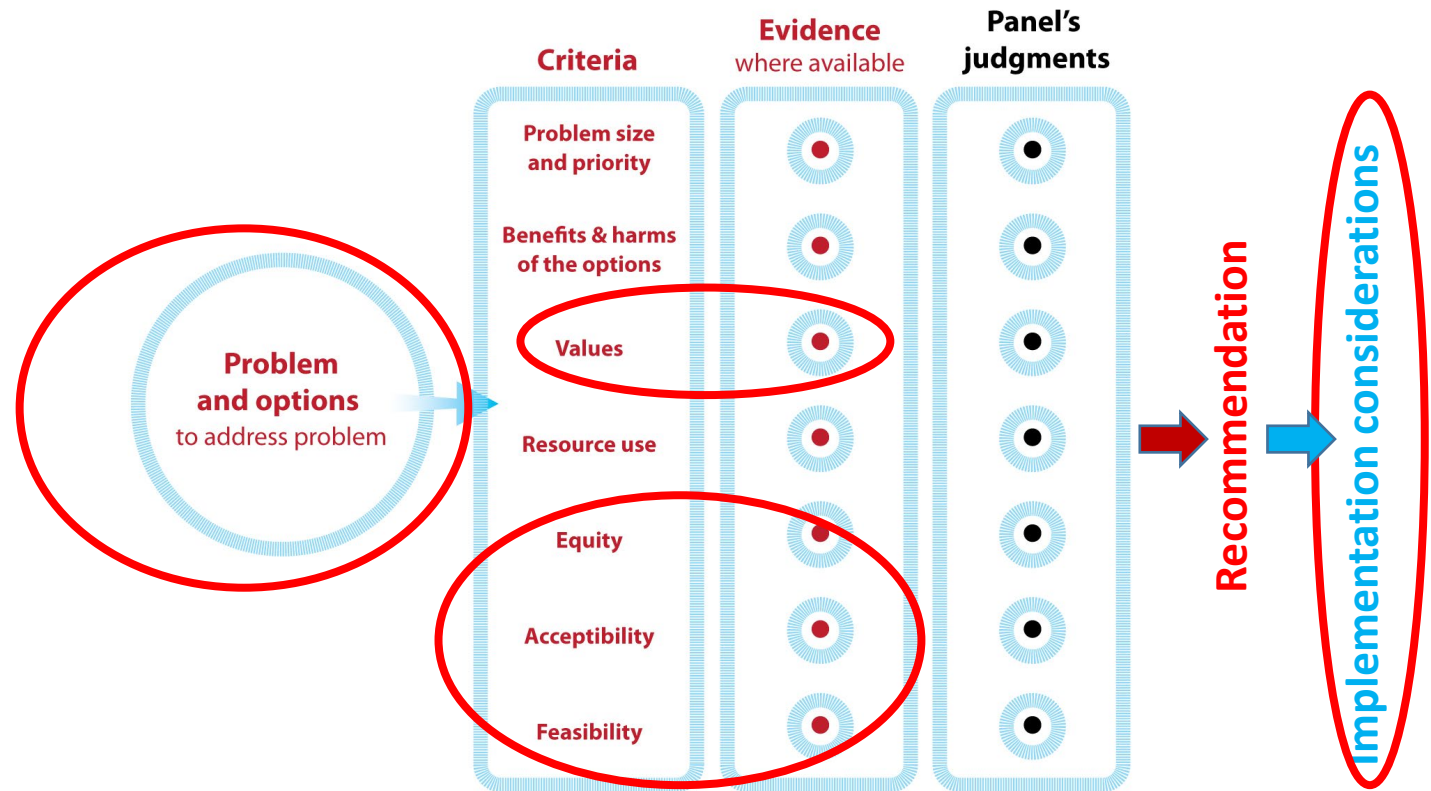
Advisory Committee on Heritable
Disorders in Newborns and
Children



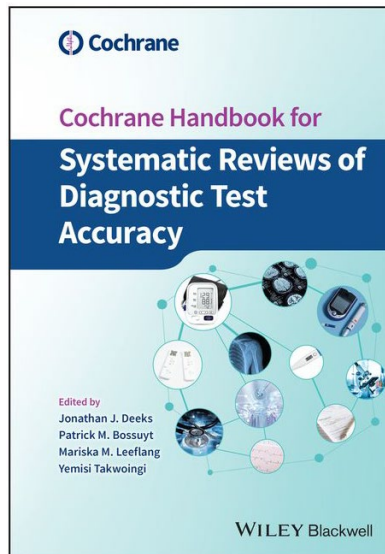
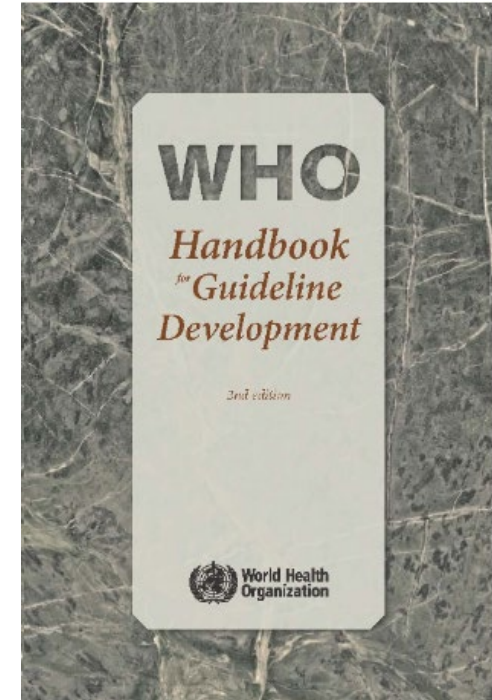
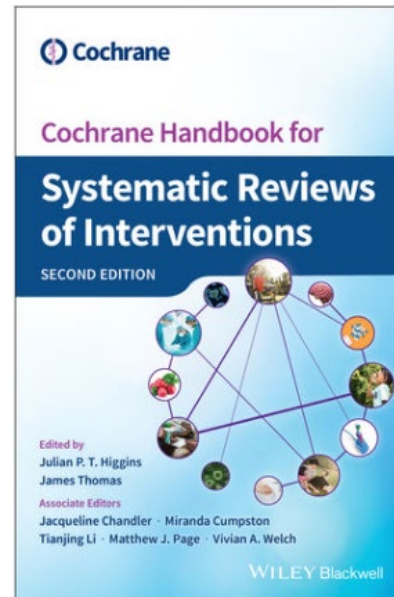
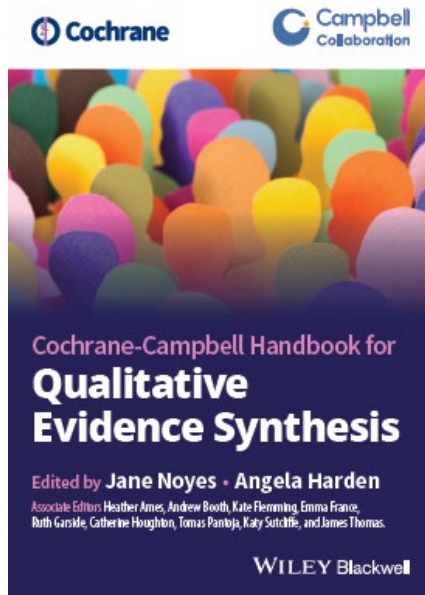
Guidelines have traditionally relied on quantitative evidence to address a narrow set of questions



Qualitative evidence can inform key parts of the evidence to decision process



Methods of Synthesis



Cochrane
handbook for
prognostic
reviews due 2025

The papers contain empirical examples and lessons learnt. Knowledge gaps for further research and practice were also included.

Qualitative Evidence Synthesis (QES) for Guidelines mini series

Paper 1 - [Using qualitative evidence synthesis to inform guideline scope and develop qualitative findings statements](#)

Paper 2 - [Using qualitative evidence synthesis findings to inform evidence-to-decision frameworks and recommendations](#)

Paper 3 - [Using qualitative evidence syntheses to develop implementation considerations and inform implementation processes](#)

Increasing role of qualitative research in guideline development

Use of qualitative research in World Health Organisation guidelines: a document analysis



Melissa Taylor^{1*}, Paul Garner¹, Sandy Oliver^{2,3} and Nicola Desmond⁴

Between 2020 and 2022

















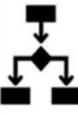







18/29 WHO guidelines included qualitative research to guide decisions




Examples of qualitative studies on heritable disorders

Returning genetic information about risk for alcohol use disorder to adolescents: Findings of a preliminary qualitative study of precision prevention

Objective: Explore attitudes toward a precision prevention model for reducing risk of alcohol use disorder among adolescents that includes return of genetic information and personally tailored guidance.

<u>Methods</u>	<u>Interview Themes</u>	<u>Conclusions</u>				
<p>Convenience sample of adolescents and adults </p> <p> Qualitative interviews to explore attitudes about precision prevention of alcohol use disorder for youth</p> <p>Thematic analysis of acceptability, potential harms, and benefits of a precision prevention model for youth </p>	<p>Strong interest in precision prevention to reduce adolescent risk of alcohol use disorder</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <th data-bbox="608 599 898 635">Potential benefits</th> <th data-bbox="942 599 1232 635">Potential risks</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="589 649 927 892"> <p> Salience, and strong youth engagement</p> <p> Motivating of behavior change</p> <p> Gain insight and protect family</p> </td> <td data-bbox="946 649 1236 892"> <p> Social anxiety</p> <p> False sense of immunity, or fatalism could increase use</p> <p> Experience of stigma or invasion of privacy</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Potential benefits	Potential risks	<p> Salience, and strong youth engagement</p> <p> Motivating of behavior change</p> <p> Gain insight and protect family</p>	<p> Social anxiety</p> <p> False sense of immunity, or fatalism could increase use</p> <p> Experience of stigma or invasion of privacy</p>	<p> Precision prevention of AUD for youth found acceptable and complex. Opportunity to prevent AUD <i>despite</i> genetic risk if an effective and safe model can be developed.</p> <p> Further research is needed to elucidate operational, ethical, and communication strategies to advance the model.</p>
Potential benefits	Potential risks					
<p> Salience, and strong youth engagement</p> <p> Motivating of behavior change</p> <p> Gain insight and protect family</p>	<p> Social anxiety</p> <p> False sense of immunity, or fatalism could increase use</p> <p> Experience of stigma or invasion of privacy</p>					
<p>Reference: Weitzman ER, Blakemore LM, Pierce SE, Kossowsky J, Levy SJ. Returning genetic information about risk for alcohol use disorder to adolescents: Findings of a preliminary qualitative study of precision prevention. <i>AJPM Focus</i>, 2023. </p>						

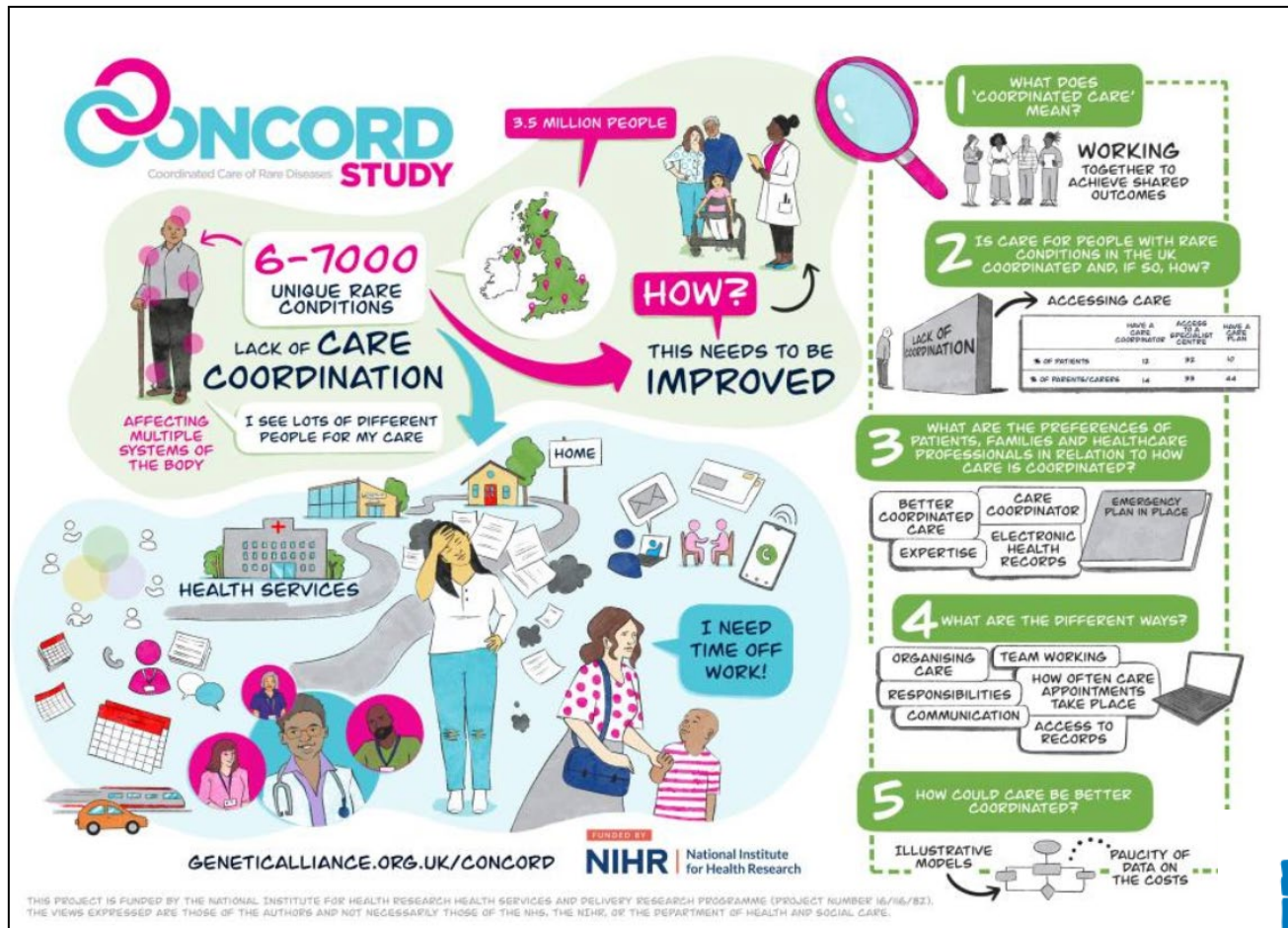
What do families affected by Turner Syndrome think of ovarian tissue freezing in childhood?

Kriss Fearon 

Centre for Reproduction Research, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK

Semi-structured interviews

Third sector organisations commonly conduct 'grey literature' qualitative studies on heritable disorders



Also possible to conduct mixed-methods reviews

JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULT ONCOLOGY
Volume 10, Number 1, 2021
© Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.
DOI: 10.1089/jayao.2020.0084

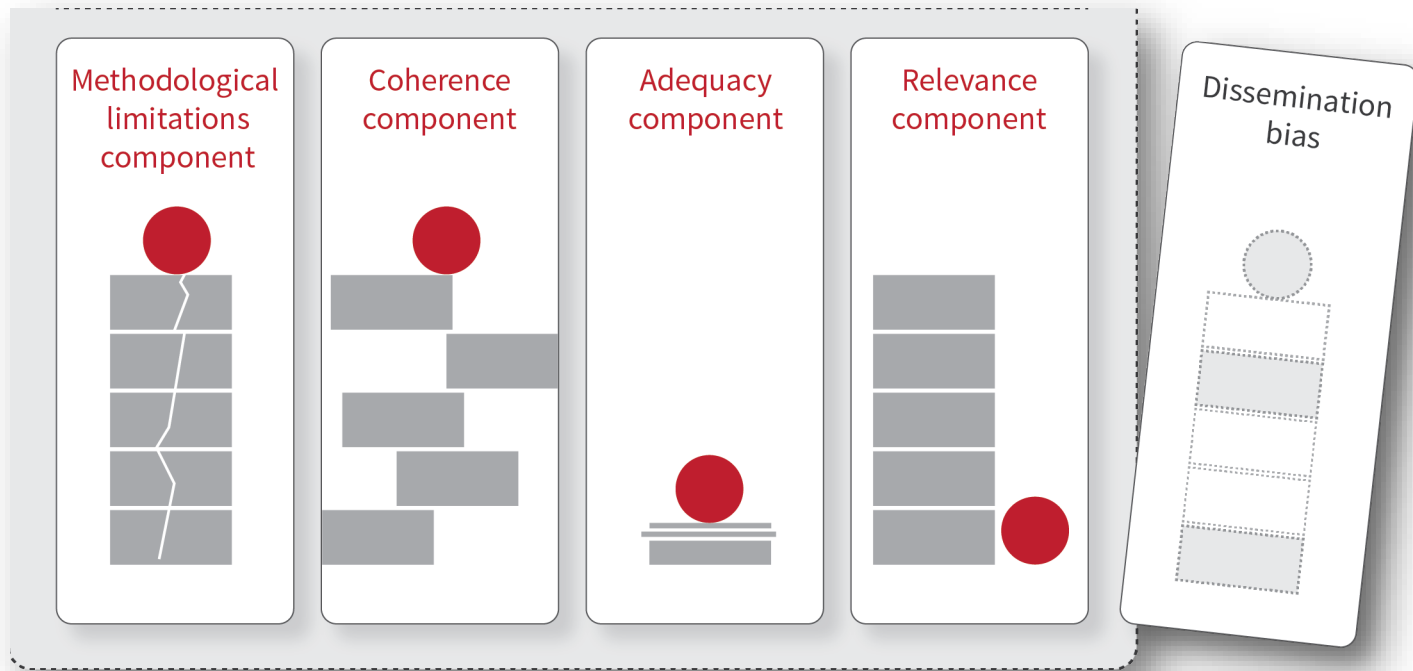
Parent-Child Communication and Reproductive Considerations in Families with Genetic Cancer Predisposition Syndromes: A Systematic Review



Copyright:
<https://www.genes2me.com/service/oncology/hereditary-cancer/hereditary-cancer-panel>

Contains qualitative,
quantitative and mixed-
method studies

The GRADE-CERQual approach for assessing confidence in synthesised qualitative findings



CERQual is applied to individual synthesis findings

- In the context of a qualitative evidence synthesis, a finding is...:

...an analytic output that describes a phenomenon or an aspect of a phenomenon

- Findings from qualitative evidence syntheses can be presented as:
 - themes, categories or theories
 - As both descriptive or more interpretive findings

Summary of qualitative findings tables

Objective: To identify, appraise, and synthesise qualitative research evidence on the barriers and facilitators to the implementation of lay health worker programmes for maternal and child health[#]

Perspective: Experiences and attitudes of stakeholders about lay health worker programmes in any country

Included programmes: Programmes that were delivered in a primary or community health care setting, that intend to improve maternal or child health, and that had used any type of lay health worker, including community health workers, village health workers, birth attendants, peer counsellors, nutrition workers, and home visitors

Review Finding	CERQual Assessment of Confidence in the Evidence	Explanation of CERQual Assessment	Studies Contributing to the Review Finding
While regular salaries were not part of many programmes, other monetary and nonmonetary incentives, including payment to cover out-of-pocket expenses and “work tools” such as bicycles, uniforms, or identity badges, were greatly appreciated by lay health workers.	Moderate	This finding was graded as moderate confidence because of minor concerns regarding methodological limitations, relevance, coherence, and adequacy.	Studies 2; 5; 11; 12; 22; 29
Some unsalaried lay health workers expressed a strong wish for regular payment.	Low	This finding was graded as low confidence because of moderate concerns regarding relevance and substantial concerns regarding adequacy of data.	Studies 5; 13



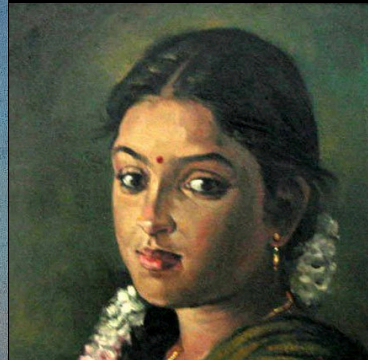
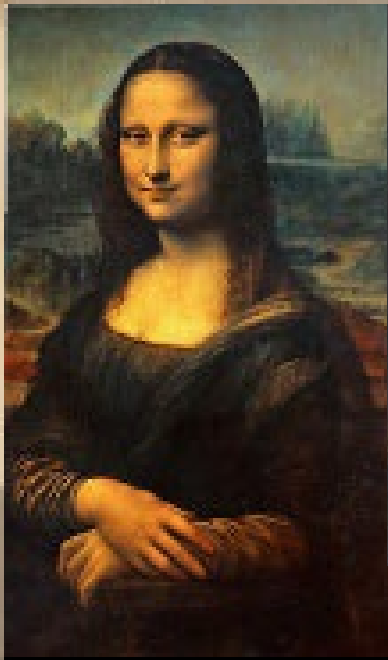
CERQual made easy

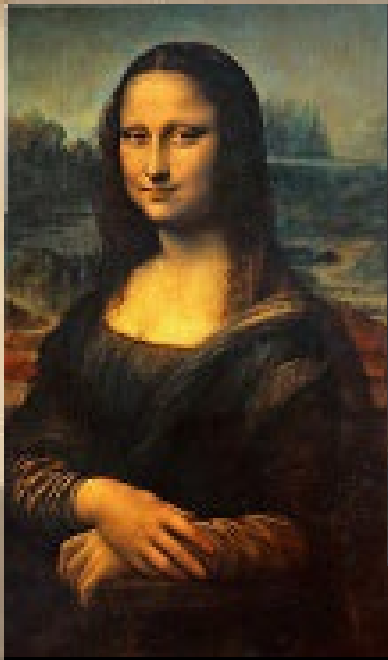
Scenario:

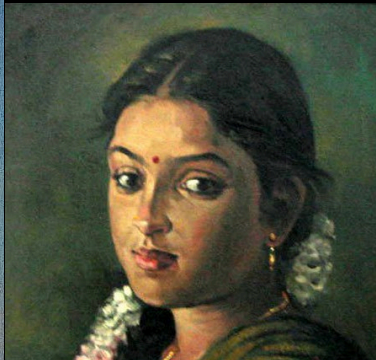
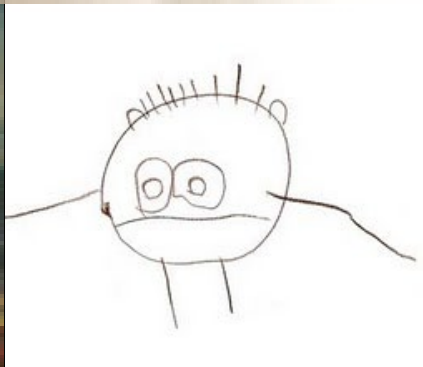
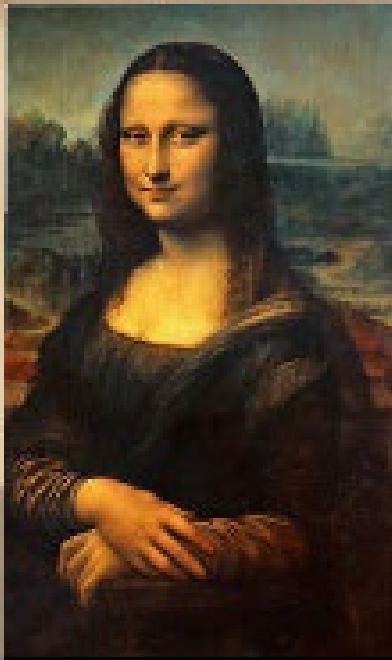
Decision makers are considering a new healthcare service. But before they introduce it, they want to know whether those affected, including patients and healthcare workers, are likely to accept it.

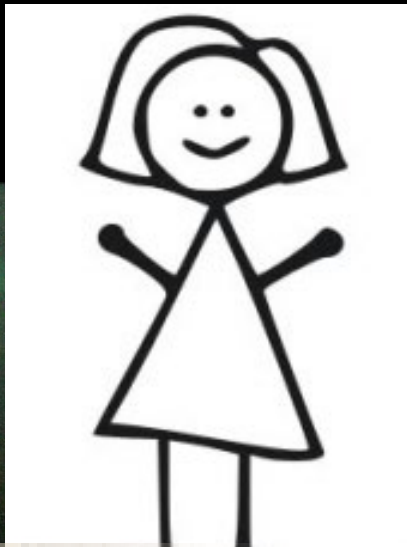
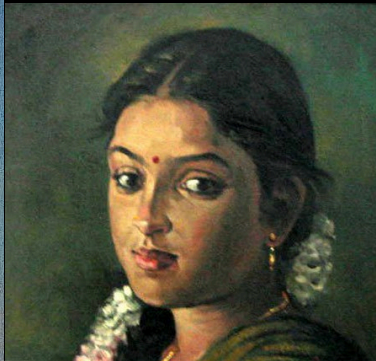
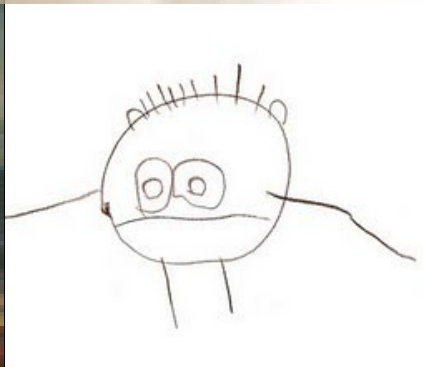
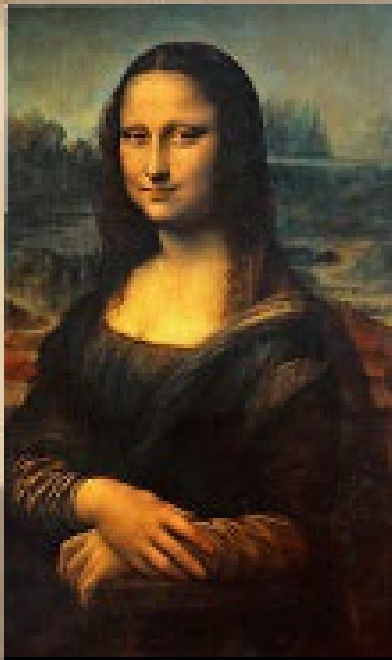
A review of qualitative research is commissioned and conducted

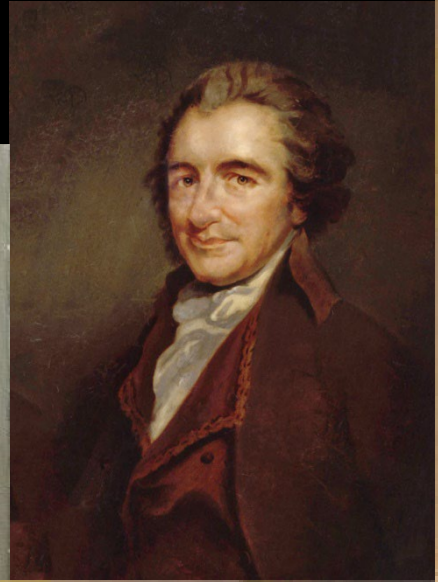
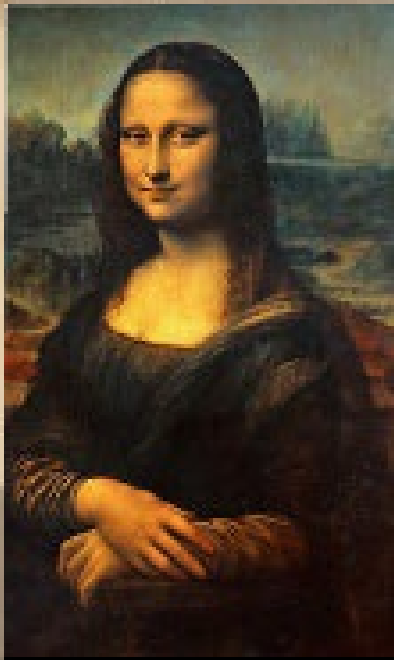
One of the findings describes women's experiences of the intervention

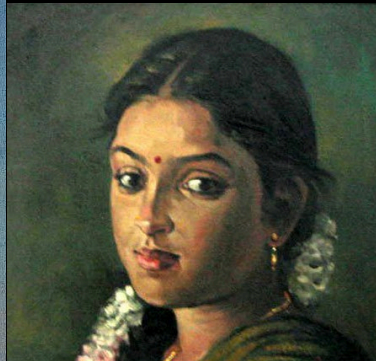
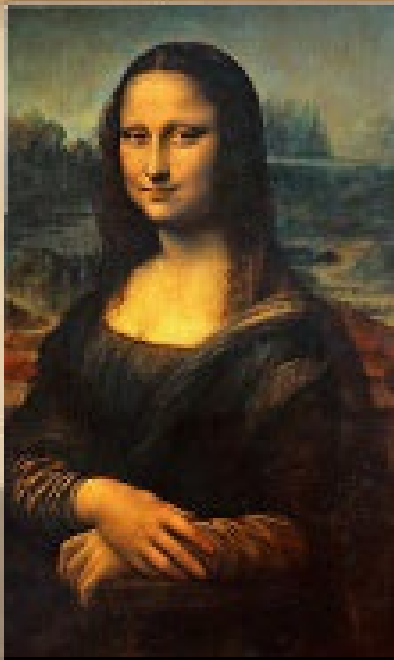


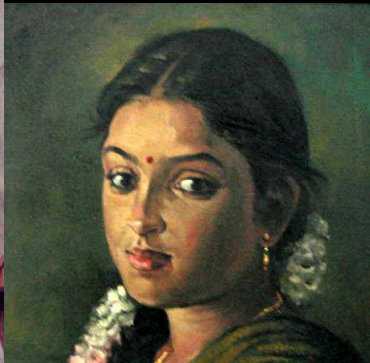
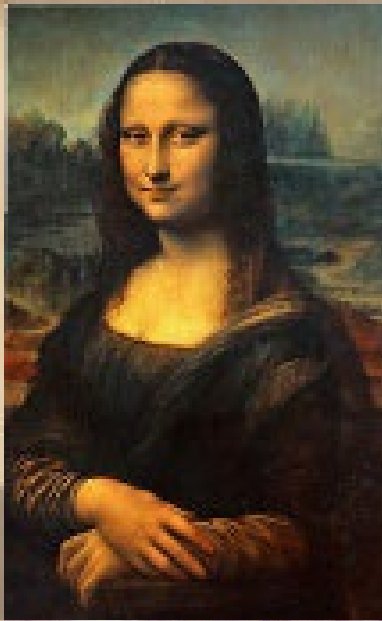


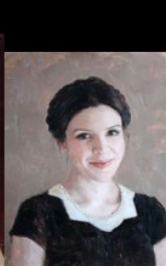
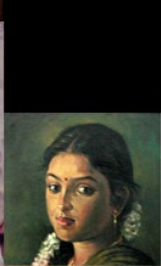
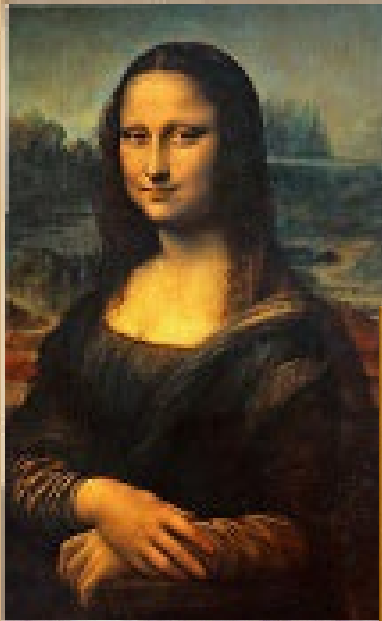


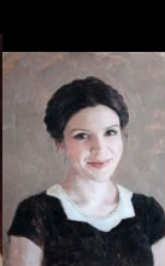
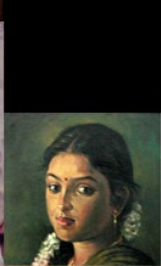
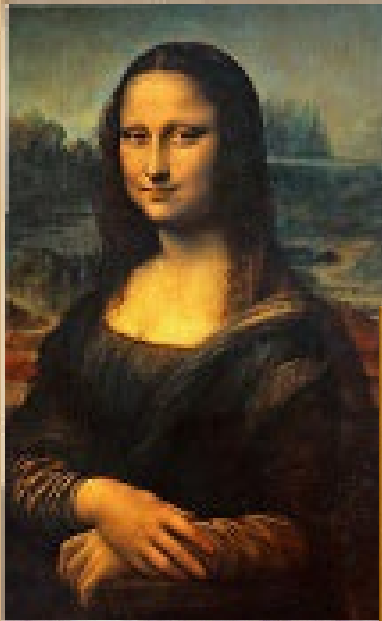


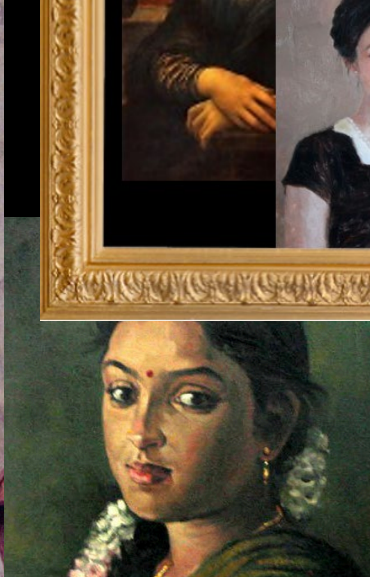
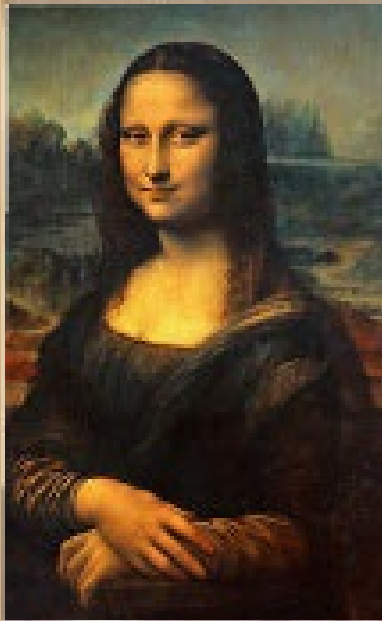


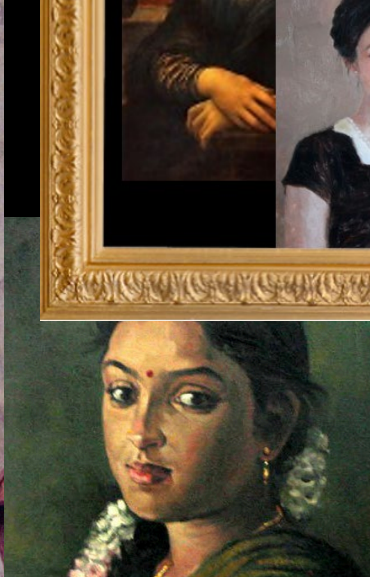
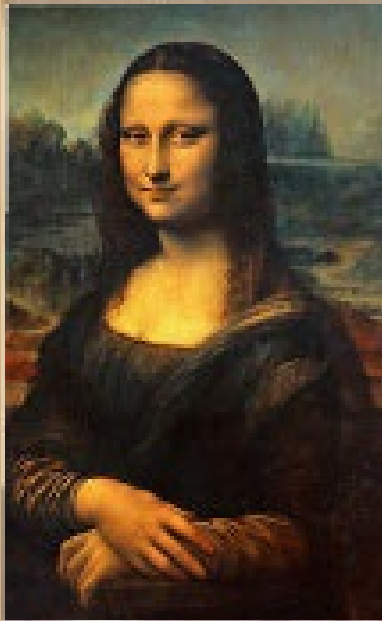


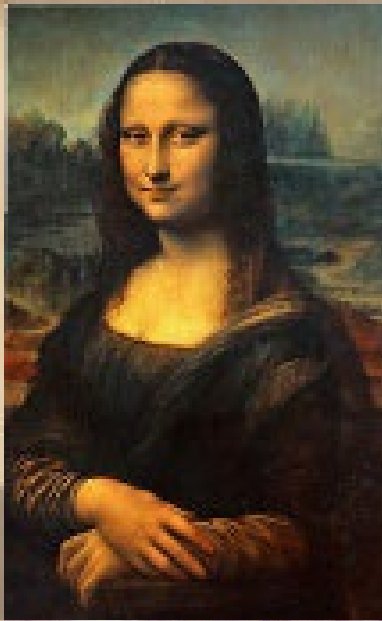


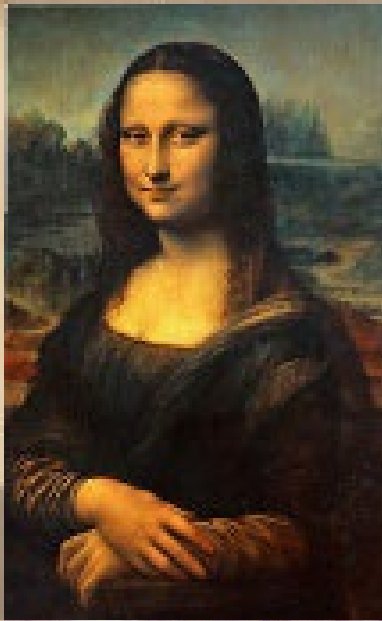


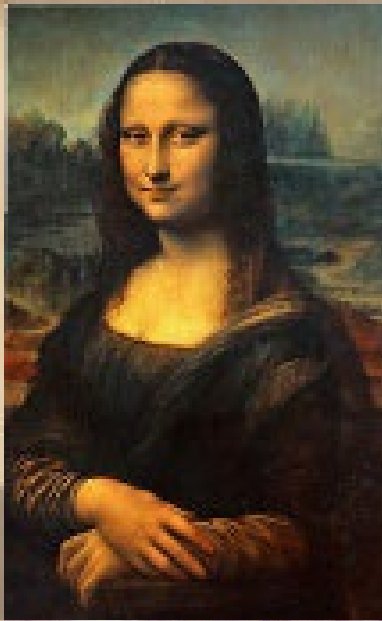


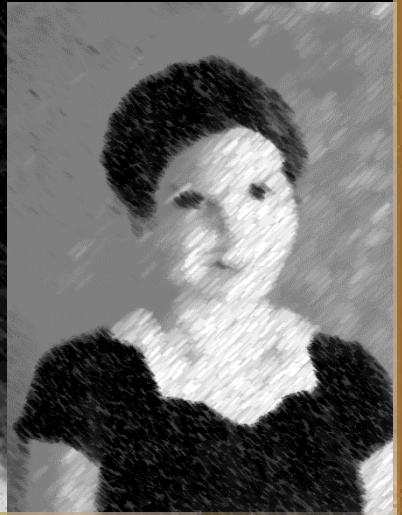
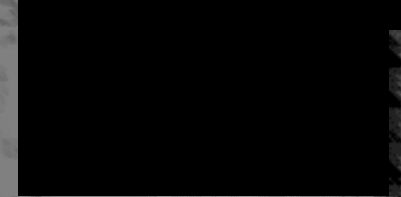
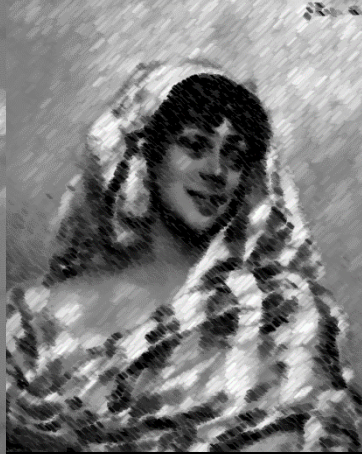










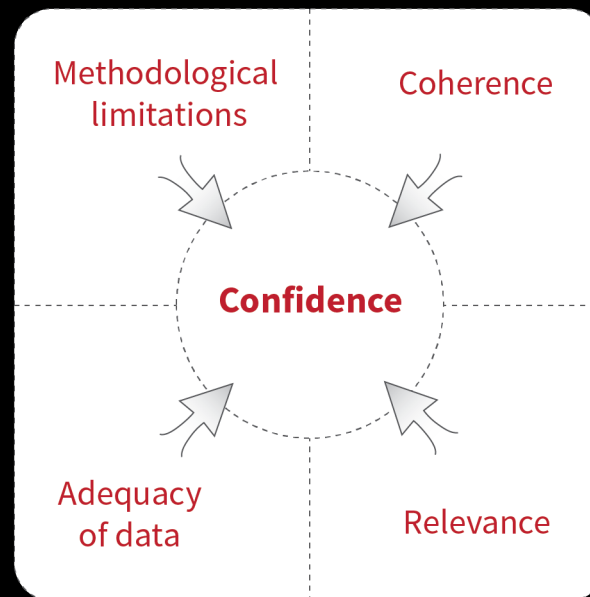


For each CERQual component, you need to identify your concerns and whether these are:

- No or very minor concerns
- Minor concerns
- Moderate concerns
- Serious concerns

After assessing all four components an overall assessment is made, expressed as either:

- High confidence
- Moderate confidence
- Low confidence
- Very low confidence



Confidence can be assessed as high, moderate, low or very low

- **High confidence:** It is highly likely that the review finding is a reasonable representation of the phenomenon of interest
- **Moderate confidence:** It is likely that the review finding is a reasonable representation of the phenomenon of interest
- **Low confidence:** It is possible that the review finding is a reasonable representation of the phenomenon of interest
- **Very low confidence:** It is not clear whether the review finding is a reasonable representation of the phenomenon of interest

Summary of qualitative findings tables

Objective: To identify, appraise, and synthesise qualitative research evidence on the barriers and facilitators to the implementation of lay health worker programmes for maternal and child health[#]

Perspective: Experiences and attitudes of stakeholders about lay health worker programmes in any country

Included programmes: Programmes that were delivered in a primary or community health care setting, that intend to improve maternal or child health, and that had used any type of lay health worker, including community health workers, village health workers, birth attendants, peer counsellors, nutrition workers, and home visitors

Review Finding	CERQual Assessment of Confidence in the Evidence	Explanation of CERQual Assessment	Studies Contributing to the Review Finding
While regular salaries were not part of many programmes, other monetary and nonmonetary incentives, including payment to cover out-of-pocket expenses and “work tools” such as bicycles, uniforms, or identity badges, were greatly appreciated by lay health workers.	Moderate	This finding was graded as moderate confidence because of minor concerns regarding methodological limitations, relevance, coherence, and adequacy.	Studies 2; 5; 11; 12; 22; 29
Some unsalaried lay health workers expressed a strong wish for regular payment.	Low	This finding was graded as low confidence because of moderate concerns regarding relevance and substantial concerns regarding adequacy of data.	Studies 5; 13

To learn more about CERQual

- Join the mailing list
- Join the project group
- Read our PLOS paper:
<http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1001895>
- CERQual Series in Implementation Science

GRADECERQual@gmail.com

www.cerqual.org

@CERQualNet

GRADE CERQual