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Article:

Campbell, F. orcid.org/0000-0002-4141-8863, Weeks, L., Booth, A. et al. (2 more authors) (2019) A scoping review found increasing examples of rapid qualitative evidence syntheses and no methodological guidance. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 115. pp. 160-171. ISSN 0895-4356

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2019.05.032>

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Table 1– Assessment against the RETREAT Criteria

Review Id	Synthesis Method	Research Question	Epistemology	Time/ Timeframe	Resources	Expertise	Audience & Purpose	Type of Data
CADTH. Colorectal Surgery (2016)¹⁵	Narrative Summary	Patient perspectives and experiences	Realist – Not explicitly stated	Less than 1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel • Databases (DB) • Data extraction (blind dual data extraction or single reviewer) • QA tool 	Qualitative plus IS	Commissioned for HTA agency	5 studies; Qualitative descriptive design (1), phenomenologies (2), grounded theory (1), consensus design (1).
CADTH. Deep Brain Stimulation (2017)¹⁸	Narrative Summary	Patient perspectives and experiences	Realist – Not explicitly stated	Less than 1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 author including IS • 6 DB • Single reviewer • CASP 	Qualitative plus IS	Commissioned for HTA agency	14 publications, 9 studies; hermeneutic phenomenology (2S, 4P), content analysis (1), mixed method study with content analysis (1), grounded theory (1S, 4P), thematic analysis (2), psychological interview study (1), highly theorized personal narrative (1).
CADTH. Hand Hygiene (2017)¹⁹	Narrative Summary	Patient perspectives and experiences	Realist – Not explicitly stated	Less than 1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 authors, including 1 advisor and 1 IS • 3 DB • Single reviewer • CASP 	Qualitative plus IS	Commissioned for HTA agency	26 studies, 2 questions; qualitative description (7), mixed methods (3), grounded theory (5), focus group methodology (1), video-reflexive ethnography (1),

								framework analysis (2), content analysis (3), phenomenology (1), interpretive description (1) and action research (2)
CADTH. Insomnia (2017)¹⁷	Narrative Summary	Patient experiences and preferences	Realist – Not explicitly stated	3-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 authors, including IS • 6 DB • Two independent reviewers • CASP (single reviewer) 	Qualitative plus IS	Commissioned for HTA agency	23 publications; Qualitative descriptive designs (6) phenomenologies (7) grounded theory (4) systematic review (1) mixed methods (5)
CADTH. Proton beam therapy (2017)²¹	Thematic analysis	Patient perspectives and experiences	Realist – Not explicitly stated	3-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 authors including 1 advisor and 1 IS • 5 DB • Single Reviewer • CASP 	Qualitative plus IS	Commissioned for HTA agency	18 articles, 15 studies; thematic analysis (8), generic qualitative design (3), phenomenologies (3), content analysis (1)
CADTH. Total Hip Replacement (2016)¹⁶	Narrative Summary	Patient and caregiver experiences	Realist – Not explicitly stated	Less than 1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 authors including IS • 5 DB • Single Reviewer • NR 	Qualitative plus IS	Commissioned for HTA agency	12 studies; Qualitative descriptive designs (8) phenomenologies (2), grounded theory (1) cross-sectional design (1)
Curtis-Tyler et al (2015)²⁰	Narrative Summary	Children, young people, carers and clinicians' views	Realist – Not explicitly stated	Less than 1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 authors • 3 DB • Single reviewer with verification • Framework used 	Not stated	Not stated	20 papers; not stated

Fox (2010) ²⁶	Narrative Summary	Patient help-seeking behaviour	Realist – Not explicitly stated	Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 author • > 7 DB • NR • Not done 	Not stated	Not stated	5 papers (Study types not stated)
Fulton et al (2016) ²⁷	Narrative Summary	Barriers and Facilitators to Adherence	Realist – Not explicitly stated	Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 authors • 3 DB • Single reviewer • NR 	Staff candidate and supervisors	Chief Scientist's Office Doctoral fellowship	Protocol
Grant et al (2018) ²²	Thematic analysis	Methods to engage patients	Realist – Not explicitly stated	3-6 months [“contractually approved timeline and budget”]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 authors • 4 DB • Single reviewer • Not done 	Not stated	Commissioned from RAND Corporation	79 articles
Harrison et al (2015) ²³	Meta-narrative	Patients' experiences	Idealist – Not explicitly stated	Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 authors • >7 DB • Two independent reviewers • NR 	Not stated	Commissioned for not-for-profit institute	39 studies; Thematic analysis (26), Discourse analysis (4), Grounded theory (4), Phenomenology (2), “Taxonomic” (1), Framework analysis (1), Not stated (1)
Herrington et al (2018) ²⁴	Thematic analysis	Patient perspectives and experiences	Realist – Not explicitly stated	3-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 authors including IS • 6 DB • Single reviewer • CASP 	Qualitative plus IS	Commissioned for HTA agency	7 studies; systematic review (1), phenomenology (2), not reported but descriptive without theoretical orientation (4)
Parretti et al (2019) ⁱ²⁵	Thematic analysis	Patients' experiences	Realist – Not explicitly stated	Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 authors (plus IS) • 3 DB • Two independent reviewers 	Qualitative	UK NIHR funded	20 studies (2 mixed methods, 18 not reported)

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASP single reviewer with verification 			
Stickley et al (2018)²⁹	Framework Synthesis	Patient-centred outcomes	Realist – Not explicitly stated	Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 authors (4 researchers) • >7 DB • NR • Not done 	Not stated	Not stated	17 studies (Study types not stated)
Uwamahoro et al (2017)²⁸	Framework Synthesis	Perceptions of young people and stakeholders	Realist – Not explicitly stated	3-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 authors • 4 DB • Single reviewer • CASP single reviewer with verification 	student and supervisors	PhD Scholarship	Protocol

IS: Information Specialist, DB: database
