

**Qualitative and Implementation Methods Group (CQIMG)
Report 2015-2016**

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Convenor)



Cochrane Vienna (2015) CQIMG Workshop – Ruth Garside (CQIMG Convenor demonstrates that hands are as graphic as a Forest plot!

Highlights of 2015 to 2016:

- CQIMG convenors work collectively on updated guidance to be published as series of journal articles in 2016.
- CQIMG Twitter account (cochranequal) posts its 1001st Tweet (18 months from 09/2014- 04/2016) with the large majority within the 2015-16 reporting year
- CQIMG convenors make major contribution to international qualitative evidence synthesis-related projects (MICCI; CERQual; Ch-IMP; eMERge; INTEGRATE-HTA)
- Recent audit reveals 18 relevant qualitative synthesis (6 reviews and 12 protocols) titles registered across 11 Cochrane Review Groups with EPOC (5 titles), Consumers and Communication (3) and Public Health (2) recording more than one title
- CQIMG Study and Methodology Register transferred to Endnote platform (8106 records)

- CQIMG feed alerts to 141 relevant methodological articles (<http://www.citeulike.org/group/17235>)
- CQIMG membership survey seeks to harness wider qualitative synthesis expertise
- Cochrane MIF funding awarded to develop the Cochrane qualitative Methodological Limitations Tool (CAMELOT) for use with CERQual
- New Flexible REVMAN template released for non-standard Cochrane reviews.

Introduction: Against a rapidly shifting landscape of methodological development the ten convenors have advanced methodological innovation while expanding CQIMG coverage to reflect its wider implementation brief and partnership work on complex interventions. The CQIMG has benefited from a period of stability in convenor membership with specific roles relating to the authorship of guidance, publicity and current awareness. The two successful annual workshops in Belgium/Netherlands and the UK continue to enjoy extensive input by the convenors, profiling CQIMG methods. Three CQIMG workshops at the Vienna Colloquium demonstrate the group's commitment to capacity building. Other priorities are being tackled through working groups; one working group is looking at membership while another is tackling the qualitative synthesis requirements of the RevMan flexible template.

Research and methodological developments: In addition to funded and unfunded work undertaken to support the development of the Group's own methodological guidance the CQIMG has played a major part in international qualitative synthesis. January 2016 saw the appearance of further papers related to the Cochrane Methods Innovation Fund project on Methodological Investigation of Cochrane Reviews of Complex Interventions (MICCI) an important cross-Methods Group initiative led by Professor Jane Noyes. Six CQIMG convenors are represented on the eMERGe project or Advisory group on reporting standards for Meta-ethnography (Booth, Flemming, Garside, Hannes, Noyes and Thomas) and three on the GRADE-CERQual core group (Booth, Garside, Noyes). Three co-convenors were instrumental to the development of the Ch-IMP checklist for implementation (Cargo, Hannes, Thomas) while Booth, Noyes and Flemming worked with European colleagues on the EU-funded INTEGRATE-HTA project to produce a guide to selecting appropriate methods of evidence synthesis to support the forthcoming updated CQIMG Supplementary Guidance. The CQIMG convenors would like to acknowledge the collective support of all their parent institutions in allowing time to work on updating the CQIMG Supplementary guidance; particularly the institutions of the lead authors for the article series - namely, University of Sheffield, Bangor University, University of South Australia, the University of York and the University of East London.

Training and support activities: CQIMG convenors delivered three workshops at the Cochrane Colloquium in Vienna, 3-7 October 2015. Sessions were entitled: (i) Development of a checklist to assess implementation (Ch-IMP) in systematic reviews: the case of provider-based programs targeting children and youth, (ii) Assessing implementation in complex interventions: Tips, strategies and examples, and (iii) Synthesis of qualitative research findings: what are they, where are they, and what to do with them?

The ESQUIRE2015 three-day workshop (University of Sheffield, August 2015) and the three-day *Systematic reviews of quantitative and/or qualitative evidence workshop* (University of

Leuven, March 2016) were both well-attended and stimulated wide methodological debate. In other training and outreach activities Kate Flemming and Ruth Garside (CQIMG Convenors) were invited to Bangladesh by the James P Grant School of Public Health, Brac University, Dhaka to deliver a short course entitled "Introduction to Systematic Reviews and Synthesis of Quantitative and Qualitative Evidence" in April 2015. The trip was funded by a grant from USAID. Forty participants ranging from research assistants to senior Bangladeshi public health academics took part in the course, which was extremely well received. Karin Hannes delivered Cochrane-based materials at the Systematic Reviews in Social Sciences Symposium in Ghent, Belgium in March 2016 and at Stellenbosch University, South Africa in February 2016.



Enthusiastic response to CQIMG outreach activities in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Noyes contributed to a 2 day workshop in Washington to support the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to develop new guidance on undertaking complex intervention reviews and presented at the Complex Intervention Special Session at the Vienna Colloquium. The CQIMG convenors wish to acknowledge the support of all their parent institutions; particularly the Bangor University for lead co-ordination, the Universities of Sheffield and Leuven for workshops, Exeter University for publicity, University of East London for meeting administration and the University of Sheffield for the CQIMG study register.

Looking ahead: Key to the CQIMG strategy is publication and dissemination of the updated guidance to reflect a wider range of synthesis types, the increasing complexity of review questions and new methodological directions prompted by the implementation agenda. The Group intends to incorporate the updated guidance in regular external and colloquium workshops and to offer further support through videos and slide presentations.

Key Publications:

Alderdice F, McNeill J, Lasserson T, Beller E, Carroll M, Hundley V, Sunderland J, Devane D, **Noyes J**, Key S, Norris S, Wyn-Davies J, Clarke M. Do Cochrane summaries help student midwives understand the findings of

Cochrane systematic reviews: the BRIEF randomised trial. *Syst Rev*. 2016 Mar 1;5:40. doi: 10.1186/s13643-016-0214-8.

Benoot C, **Hannes K**, Bilsen J. The use of purposeful sampling in a qualitative evidence synthesis: A worked example on sexual adjustment to a cancer trajectory. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*. 2016 Feb 18;16:21. doi: 10.1186/s12874-016-0114-6.

Booth A. (2016) Searching for qualitative research for inclusion in systematic reviews: a structured methodological review. *Systematic Reviews* 2016. doi: 10.1186/s13643-016-0249-x

Booth, A., Noyes J, Flemming K, Gerhardus, A., Wahlster, P., Van Der Wilt, G.J., et al. (2016) *Guidance on choosing qualitative evidence synthesis methods for use in health technology assessments of complex interventions* [Online]. Available from: <http://www.integrate-hta.eu/downloads/>

Carroll, C., & **Booth, A.** (2015). Quality assessment of qualitative evidence for systematic review and synthesis: Is it meaningful, and if so, how should it be performed? *Research Synthesis Methods*, 6(2), 149-154.

Cargo M, Stankov I, **Thomas J,** Saini M, Rogers P, Mayo-Wilson E, **Hannes K.** Development, inter-rater reliability and feasibility of a checklist to assess implementation (Ch-IMP) in systematic reviews: the case of provider-based prevention and treatment programs targeting children and youth. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*. 2015 Sep 7;15(1):1.

France EF, Ring N, **Noyes J,** Maxwell M, Jepson R, Duncan E, Turley R, Jones D, Uny I. Protocol-developing meta-ethnography reporting guidelines (eMERGe). *BMC medical research methodology*. 2015 Nov 25;15(1):103.

Frost J, **Garside R,** Cooper C, Britten N (2016). Meta-Study as Diagnostic: Toward Content over Form in Qualitative Synthesis. *Qualitative Health Research*, 26, 307-319

Kneale, D., **Thomas, J.,** & Harris, K. (2015). Developing and optimising the use of logic models in systematic reviews: Exploring practice and good practice in the use of programme theory in reviews. *PLoS ONE*, 10 (11). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0142187

Lewin S, Glenton C, Munthe-Kaas H, Carlsen B, Colvin CJ, Gülmezoglu M, **Noyes J, Booth A, Garside R & Rashidian A** (2015) Using Qualitative Evidence in Decision Making for Health and Social Interventions: An Approach to Assess Confidence in Findings from Qualitative Evidence Syntheses (GRADE-CERQual). *PLoS Medicine*, 12(10) Article No: e1001895.

Noyes J, Hendry M, **Booth A,** Chandler J, Lewin S, Glenton C & **Garside R** (2016) Current use and Cochrane guidance on selection of social theories for systematic reviews of complex interventions. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2015.12.009.

Noyes J, Hendry M, Lewin S, Glenton C, Chandler J, Rashidian A. Qualitative "trial-sibling" studies and "unrelated" qualitative studies contributed to complex intervention reviews. *J Clin Epidemiol*. 2016 Jan 15. pii: S0895-4356(16)00040-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2016.01.009. [Epub ahead of print]

Sutcliffe K, **Thomas J**, Stokes G, Hinds K, Bangpan M (2015) Intervention Component Analysis (ICA): a pragmatic approach for identifying the critical features of complex interventions. *Systematic Reviews*, 4:140.

Group access:

Website: <http://qim.cochrane.org/>

Discussion: <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/ASQUS.html>



Twitter: twitter.com/cochranequal