**Table S2: Quality summary of included studies, based upon NICE checklist for qualitative studies (NICE, 2012 Appendix H p 2-12)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Study**  | **Population** | **Methods** | **Analysis** | **Relevance of study** |
| Bartlett (2014a) | Well reported | Well reported | Well reported and credible | UK. Age 55-78 individuals with dementia involved in dementia-related activism |
| Bartlett (2014b) | Some detail missing in reporting | Some detail missing in reporting | Well reported and credible | UK. Age 53-74 individuals with dementia involved in dementia-related activism |
| Beard (2004) | Well reported | Some details missing in reporting | Coherent but some details missing in reporting | USA. Support group attendees with early stage dementia |
| Beard & Fox (2008) | Well reported | Well reported | Well reported and credible | USA. Age 65+ support group attendees, 24 AD, 16 MCI |
| Caddell & Clare (2011) | Well reported | Well reported | Well reported and credible | UK. Age 65-88 participants from memory clinic with AD or VaD |
| Clare et al. (2008) | Well reported | Some detail missing in reporting | Well reported and credible | UK. Aged 48-66 self-help group participants with dementia |
| Clemerson et al. (2014) | Well reported | Well reported | Coherent, but some detail missing in reporting | UK. Aged 35-63 individuals with young-onset AD from NHS services |
| Harris & Sterrin (1999) | Well reported | Some detail missing in reporting | Well reported and credible | USA. Aged 54-84 individuals with AD, recruited via Alzheimer’s Association |
| Harris (2004) | Well reported | Well reported | Coherent, but some detail missing in reporting | USA. Aged 43-68 individuals with dementia from Alzheimer’s Association and dementia internet network |
| Harris (2012) | Well reported | Well reported | Coherent, but some detail missing in reporting | USA. Aged 59-85 individuals from Alzheimer’s Association, mainly AD |
| Harris (2013) | Well reported | Well reported | Well reported and credible | USA. Aged 57-85 individuals from Alzheimer’s Association, mainly AD |
| Hedman et al. (2012) | Well reported | Some detail missing in reporting | Well reported and credible | Sweden. Aged 65-80 support group attendees with AD |
| Katsuno (2005) | Well reported | Well reported | Mostly coherent, but some details missing in reporting | USA. Aged 66-91 individuals with dementia, mainly AD |
| Langdon et al. (2007) | Well reported | Some detail missing in reporting | Well reported and credible | UK. Aged 66-87 individuals with dementia from older adult mental health unit |
| MacQuarrie (2005) | Well reported | Some detail missing in reporting | Coherent, some details missing in reporting | Canada. Aged 60-89 individuals with AD from dementia clinic |
| MacRae (2011) | Well reported | Well reported | Some lack of clarity as to how themes were derived | Canada. Aged 60-85 individuals with dementia |
| Mok et al. (2007) | Well reported | Well reported | Coherent, some details missing in reporting | China. Aged 56-80 individuals with dementia |
| O’Connor et al. (2010) | Well reported |  Well reported | Well reported and credible | Canada. 1 participant aged 49 with atypical VaD |
| O’Sullivan et al. (2014) | Well reported | Well reported | Coherent, some details missing in reporting | New Zealand. Aged 59-64 individuals with dementia from community groups |
| Orulv (2012) | Well reported | Well reported | Well reported and credible | Sweden. Aged 63-83 individuals from self-help group, 5 dementia, 2 cognitive impairment |
| Pipon-Young et al. (2012) | Well reported | Well reported | Well reported and credible | UK. Aged 60-67 individuals with dementia from NHS services |
| Powers, et al. (2014) | Well reported | Some details missing in reporting | Some lack of clarity to analysis | USA. Aged 50-95 individuals with dementia |
| Tranvag et al. (2015) | Well reported | Well reported | Well reported and credible | Norway. Aged 64-85 individuals from memory clinic. 10 AD, 1 MCI) |