Appendix: COREQ criteria and report sections where each criterion is addressed

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| **COREQ criterion** | **Relevant report section** |
| *Personal characteristics* |  |
| Interviewer/facilitator. Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group? | Data collection |
| Credentials. What were the researcher’s credentials? E.g. PhD, MD | Research team |
| Occupation. What was their occupation at the time of the study? | Research team |
| Gender Was the researcher male, female, or other? | Research team |
| Experience and training. What experience or training did the researcher have? | Research team |
| *Relationship with participants* |  |
| Relationship established was a relationship established prior to study commencement? | Research team |
| Participant knowledge of the interviewer . What did the participants know about the researcher? E.g., personal goals, reasons for doing the research | Research team |
| Interviewer characteristics. What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? E.g., bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic | Reflexivity statement |
| *Theoretical framework* |  |
| Methodological orientation and theory. What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? E.g., grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis | Design and Data analysis |
| *Participant selection* |  |
| Sampling. How were participants selected? E.g., purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball | Participant recruitment and sampling |
| Method of approach. How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email | Participant recruitment and sampling |
| Sample size. How many participants were in the study? | Sample and participant demographic profile |
| Non-participation. How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons? | Sample and participant demographic profile |
| *Setting* |  |
| Setting of data collection. Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace | Data collection |
| Presence of non-participants. Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers? | Data collection |
| Description of sample What are the important characteristics of the sample? E.g., demographic data, date. | Sample and participant demographic profile |
| *Data collection* |  |
| Interview guide Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested? | Data collection |
| Repeat interviews. Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many? | Data collection |
| Audio/visual recording Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data? | Data collection |
| Field notes. Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group? | Data collection |
| Duration. What was the duration of the interviews or focus group? | Data collection |
| Data saturation Was data saturation discussed? | In line with the guidance offered by Braun and Clarke (2021), we discuss information power not saturation in Data collection |
| Transcripts returned. Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction? | Data collection |
| *Data analysis* |  |
| Number of data coders How many data coders coded the data? | Data analysis |
| Description of the coding tree. Did authors provide a description of the coding tree? | Data analysis |
| Derivation of themes. Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data? | Data analysis |
| Software. What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data? | No software was used. This is explained in Data analysis |
| Participant checking. Did participants provide feedback on the findings? | Participant checking was not performed. This is explained in Data analysis. |
| Quotations presented. Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes / findings? Was each quotation identified? E.g., participant number | Overview of the findings |
| *Reporting* |  |
| Data and findings consistent. Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings? | Overview of the findings |
| Clarity of major themes Were major themes clearly presented in the findings? | Overview of the findings |
| Clarity of minor themes Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes? | Overview of the findings |