

CAEP EDUCATION RESEARCH (QUALITATIVE) ABSTRACT REVIEWER CRITERIA



	1 – Unacceptable	2 – Poor	3 – Good	4 – Very Good	5 - Excellent
CLARITY OF OBJECTIVES OR QUESTION	No identifiable objectives or research question.	Objectives and research question are not stated clearly.	Objectives and research question could be improved.	Adequate study objectives and research question.	Well thought-out study objectives and research question.
APPROPRIATE USE OF QUALITATIVE METHODS AND THEORY (e.g. constructivist grounded theory, phenomenology)	Methods and theory not properly employed/understood, mismatched or inappropriate for the research question, or no discussion of methods and theory.	Vague and nonspecific theoretical approach or methods.	Methods or theoretical approach are suitable, but have limited applicability to the research question. Or, analysis described (e.g. 'coding,' thematic analysis) but no overall methods and theoretical approach.	Methods and theoretical approach are well aligned. Other methods may have been slightly more appropriate for the request question. For mixed methods studies, clearly articulates integration strategy and justification for methodological mixing.	Method and theoretical approach are optimally aligned, properly employed/understood, and well-matched to the research question. For mixed methods studies, clearly articulates integration strategy and justification for methodological mixing.
POPULATION AND SAMPLING Was the technique used to recruit the study participants appropriate? (The sampling strategy and technique rather than sample size). Did they study the correct population??	Haphazard or unclear rationale for sampling the population, or sampled population inappropriate to understand the research question.	Selected a group of participants that allowed them to answer the question, but left out groups with fundamentally important perspectives on the research question.	Reasonable selection of study participants, but some relevant groups were excluded.	Thoughtful selection of participants, but for practical or logistical reasons could not recruit the best population.	Careful selection of study participants to best understand the research question.
DATA COLLECTION Were the correct data collection techniques selected and applied?	Data collection is inappropriate and likely led to an unacceptably biased or incomplete dataset.	Data collection is mismatched with the type of question and/or sampling.	Data collection is sufficiently matched to the type of question or sampling, though other methods may have been better suited. (e.g. focus groups were used when individual interviews would have been better).	Data collection is reasonable, but limited by 1-2 key elements (e.g. budget restrictions, logistics of the study design.) Purposeful sampling strategy clearly justified and aligned with research question.	Data collection is well-matched to the type of question and sampling, yielding the optimal type of data. (e.g. for sensitive topics individual interviews were used to collect data to ensure honesty and participant safety). Purposeful sampling strategy clearly justified and aligned with research question.
ANALYTIC APPROACH Adherence to accepted techniques of the qualitative method employed (e.g. grounded theory employs source triangulation, narrative analysis employing member checking)	Inappropriate techniques or no mention of technique that was used to ensure rigour.	Trivial application of methods to increase the rigour of the analysis.	Uses one technique to ensure rigour in the analysis.	Utilizes more than two techniques for ensuring the rigour in the analysis.	Appropriately uses multiple techniques to establish rigour (e.g., triangulation, member checking, reflexivity statements, audit trails) matched to the theoretical approach.
IMPORTANCE OF THE TOPIC Prioritize topics of major importance to the Canadian emergency community	This topic is only of interest to a small group of emergency physicians and is unlikely to result in important knowledge.	This is an important topic, will be of interest to <i>some</i> emergency physicians, including those who do not study this topic.	This is an important topic, will be of interest to <i>many</i> emergency physicians, including those who do not study this topic.	This is an important topic, will be of interest to <i>most</i> emergency physicians, including those who do not study this topic.	This topic and/or question is important and relevant to every emergency provider.
CLARITY OF WRITING OR WRITING OF PRESENTATION	Poorly written throughout (e.g. poor syntax, grammar, phrasing), incoherent, and/or inconsistent with the CAEP submission guidelines.	Poorly written in some areas (e.g. incomplete ideas, >1-2 grammatical errors, vague in some areas). Adheres somewhat to the CAEP submission guidelines.	Adequately written, could be improved in some areas (e.g. incomplete ideas, 1-2 grammatical errors, vague in some areas). Adheres mostly to the CAEP submission guidelines.	Coherent and well-written, only minor errors. Adheres to the CAEP submission guidelines	Perfect grammar, no errors, very clear expression of ideas. Adheres to the CAEP submission guidelines.

