

Appendix 7. ConQual criteria for assessing Confidence in the synthesised findings

Dependability. When the five criteria for dependability are not met across the included studies the synthesised finding is downgraded based on the aggregated level of dependability.

1. Is there congruity between the research methodology and the research question or objectives?
2. Is there congruity between the research methodology and the methods used to collect data?
3. Is there congruity between the research methodology and the representation and analysis of data?
4. Is there a statement locating the researcher culturally or theoretically?
5. Is the influence of the researcher on the research, and vice-versa, addressed?

Credibility. When not all the findings included in a synthesised finding are considered unequivocal downgrading may occur.

Unequivocal (findings accompanied by an illustration that is beyond reasonable doubt and; therefore not open to challenge).

Equivocal (findings accompanied by an illustration lacking clear association with it and therefore open to challenge).

Unsupported (findings are not supported by the data).

From: Munn Z, Porritt K, Lockwood C, et al. Establishing confidence in the output of qualitative research synthesis: the ConQual approach. BMC Medical Research Methodology 2014;14(1):1-7.