

Reflective questions

Suppose that you are bidding for funding for a research project investigating why there is such poor uptake of training offered by 'expert patient programmes' for people with chronic non-communicable diseases. You are including a systematic synthesis of the qualitative data and the funders have asked you to clarify why this has been included. Explain, in a brief note, why this is important for your research design, what kind of things you will seek out for review and why it is not necessary to review every single bit of evidence. What value do you feel taking a 'qualitative sampling approach' has over taking a more usual 'systematic review' approach? If you were a funder would you be happy to fund such an approach? How would you justify it to your more sceptical colleagues?

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Would you characterise this as primary research, or a review?