

## Report Supplementary Materials 8 (17-99-85-sup8)

### Document appraisal for realist synthesis

Following RAMESES guidance, appraisal of the contribution of any section of data (within a document) is made following the two criteria of Relevance (whether the document or document sections can contribute to theory building or theory testing) and of Rigour (whether the method used to generate that particular piece of data is credible and trustworthy).<sup>1</sup>

**The purpose of ranking in relation to our DISCERN study objective:** to establish initial hypotheses to focus the realist investigation of Open Disclosure improvements in NHS maternity services.

**Method:** Literature review and stakeholder consultation on OD interventions in maternity care (published as an output).

#### Relevance Ranking (adapted from CASP):

- 1- Includes all elements of one or more C, M, and Os (with evidenced outcome(s)).
- 2- Includes all elements of one or more C, M and Os (not evidenced outcomes(s)).
- 3- Includes some but not all elements of any C, M or Os.
- 4- Includes some evidence of M (but no C or O)
- 5- Includes none of above

#### Rigour Ranking (adapted from Booth et al 2021 p.165):

- 1- Results of the item (paper/report/commentary) is valid; reliable and generalisable
- 2- Results of the item (paper/report/commentary) is generalisable
- 3- Results of the item (paper/report/commentary) is valid and reliable
- 4- Results of the item (paper/report/commentary) is valid
- 5- Results of the item are none of the above

Definitions for rigour ranking used (adapted by MA to include grey literature):

- a. Generalisability: empirical (extent to which evidence discussed can be used to infer characteristics about a wider population;<sup>2</sup> or theoretical (extent to which evidence discussed can be used to develop concepts, phenomena, or theoretical propositions relevant to another setting or social group<sup>3</sup>
- b. Validity: accurate or true account of the evidence included (assessed by evidence from other commentators; or by different bodies of evidence used<sup>4</sup>
- c. Reliability: if conclusions from evidence presented would be the same for different writers<sup>5</sup>

#### References:

1. Wong G, Greenhalgh T, Westhorp G, Buckingham J, Pawson R. RAMESES publication standards: realist syntheses. *BMC medicine* 2013; **11**(1): 1-14.
2. Mason L. Developing epistemological thinking to foster conceptual change in different domains. *Reconsidering conceptual change: Issues in theory and practice* 2002: 301-35.
3. Draper AK. The principles and application of qualitative research. *Proceedings of the nutrition society* 2004; **63**(4): 641-6.
4. Murphy KRe. *Validity Generalization: A Critical Review* (1st ed.). Psychology Press.; 2002.
5. Hammersley M. *Interpreting Qualitative Data: Methods for Analysing Talk, Text and Interaction*. JSTOR; 1994.