Table of contents

Table 1: Codes describing the focus of questions asked and their code categories. Items in bold did not appear in the qualitative data.

| Code\*\* | **Category** |
| --- | --- |
| Participant’s experience [1–13]  Participant’s speciality [1, 2, 4–6, 9, 10, 12–15]  Participant’s age [4, 6–8, 10, 12, 13, 15]  Participant’s gender [4, 6–8, 12, 13, 15]  Participant’s geography [3, 5, 11, 13]  Participant’s stage of current research project [1] | Demographics |
| Awareness of a particular guideline [1, 4–6, 8, 10–13, 15, 16]  **Awareness of EQUATOR [5, 6]**  How did they first hear about guidelines or EQUATOR? [5, 8, 13]  When did they first learn about a guideline? [5] | Awareness |
| How frequently do they use guidelines? [1–3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15]  When should guidelines be used? [3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13]  Would they use a guideline, hypothetically [1, 13, 17] | Usage |
| Did the guidance impact subsequent behaviour? [1–3, 16–19] | Impact on behaviour |
| Is the guidance usable? [12, 13, 20]  Is the guidance easy to understand? [2, 7, 9, 12, 13, 19] | Usability |
| Is the guidance useful? [3, 5, 10, 13, 17, 19, 21] | Usefulness |
| Is the guidance important? [2, 5, 7, 10, 15, 18] | Importance |
| Are time and length barriers? [5, 12, 13, 18, 19]  **Is language of guidance a barrier? [12]**  Are guidelines lacking for study type? [5] | Barriers |
| Is the layout OK? [9, 13, 17]  Should the content be modified? [9, 17, 22]  Is the guidance relevant? [19]  Are guidelines prescriptive? [5] | Opinions on content |
| Will using a guideline benefit the manuscript? [1, 12, 13, 17]  Productivity benefits of using guidelines [13]  Using guidelines because of journal requirements [5, 13]  **Using guidelines because of funder requirements** [5]  **Using guidelines because of employment requirements** [5]  Using guidelines because of other researchers expecting it [13] | Reasons for using a guideline |
| Opinions on reporting quality of the literature [4, 5, 10, 12] | Opinions on reporting quality |
| Are guidelines easy to find and access [5, 10, 12] | Accessibility |
| Who should complete the checklist? [5, 12] | Roles |
| Are endorsements a facilitator? [5]  Is evidence of increased chance of publication a facilitator? [5]  Is evidence of improved reporting quality a facilitator? [5]  Is explanatory information a facilitator? [5]  **Is training a facilitator? [5]**  Is the behaviour of peers a facilitator or motivator? [5]  Is the evidence base underlying a reporting guideline a motivator? [5]  **Is transparency in guideline development a motivator? [5]** | Facilitators and motivators |
| Is the aim of the guidance clear? [9] | Aim of guidance |

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