

## Appendix I. eMERGe reporting guideline

Criteria	Headings	Pages
Phase 1	1. Rationale and context for the meta-ethnography	1-3
Selecting meta-ethnography and getting started	Describe the gap in research or knowledge to be filled by the meta-ethnography and the wider context of the meta-ethnography	
	2. Aim(s) of the meta-ethnography	3
	Describe the meta-ethnography aim(s)	
	3. Focus of the meta-ethnography	3
	Describe the meta-ethnography review question(s) (or objectives)	
	4. Rationale for using meta-ethnography	3
	Explain why meta-ethnography was considered the most appropriate qualitative synthesis methodology	
Phase 2	5. Search strategy	4
Deciding what is relevant	Describe the rationale for the literature search strategy	
	6. Search processes	4
	Describe how the literature searching was carried out and by whom	
	7. Selecting primary studies	5
	Describe the process of study screening and selection, and who was involved	
	8. Outcome of study selection	5
	Describe the results of study searches and screening	
Phase 3	9. Reading and data-extraction approach	5-6
Reading included studies	Describe the reading and data-extraction method and processes	
	10. Presenting characteristics of included studies	6
	Describe characteristics of the included studies	
Phase 4	11. Process for determining how studies are related	6
Determining how studies are related	Describe the methods and processes for determining how the included studies are related:	
	- which aspects of studies were compared	
	- how the studies were compared	
	12. Outcome of relating studies	6
	Describe how studies relate to each other	
Phase 5	13. Process of translating studies	6-7
Translating studies into one another	Describe the methods of translation:	
	Describe steps taken to preserve the context and meaning of the relationships between concepts within and across studies	
	Describe how the reciprocal and refutational translations were conducted	
	Describe how potential alternative interpretations or explanations were considered in the translations	
	14. Outcome of translation	7
	Describe the interpretive findings of the translation	
Phase 6	15. Synthesis process	7
Synthesizing translations	Describe the methods used to develop overarching concepts ('synthesized translations'), and describe how potential alternative interpretations or explanations were considered in the synthesis	
	16. Outcome of synthesis process	7-19
	Describe the new theory, conceptual framework, model, configuration or interpretation of data developed from the synthesis	
Phase 7	17. Summary of findings	20-22
Expressing the synthesis	Summarize the main interpretive findings of the translation and synthesis, and compare them to existing literature	
	18. Strengths and limitations	22-23
	Reflect on and describe the strengths and limitations of the synthesis:	
	- methodological aspects: for example, describe how the synthesis findings were influenced by the nature of the included studies and how the meta-ethnography was conducted	
	19. Recommendations and conclusions	23
	Describe the implications of the synthesis	

