Case Studies

# Chapter 8: Qualitative methods

Students Edward, Blessing and Rachel have been given the topic of witnessed resuscitation. They have been asked to develop a research aim and identify which qualitative research method would be most appropriate to address the following aspects of witnessed resuscitation:

* Family members’ experiences of witnessing the resuscitation of a relative.
* The ways in which clinical decisions are made during witnessed resuscitation.
* Health care professional team working during witnessed resuscitation.

Edward, Blessing and Rachel decide the following:

## Study aim

* To explore family members’ experiences of witnessing the resuscitation of a relative *- phenomenology*
* To explore decision making during witnessed resuscitation - *grounded theory*
* To explore health care professional team working during witnessed resuscitation – *ethnography*

Select one of these examples. Map out a potential study to include the particular approach (e.g., descriptive or interpretative phenomenology, type of ethnography), potential study setting, sample size, method of participant recruitment, participant inclusion criteria, method of data collection, data analysis and potential ethical issues.

Consider the ways in which the principles and key characteristics of the selected research method will facilitate the achievement of the study aim.

Do you think that the students have selected the most appropriate method for the aim that they have developed? Which alternative research method(s) could they have selected?