Case Studies

# Chapter 17: Qualitative methods of data collection

The students have been asked to plan the following studies:

*1. A phenomenological study – What is the lived experience of teenagers with chronic renal failure?*

The aim is to recruit teenagers from one children’s hospital. The teenagers will be recruited from the renal out-patients clinic and the renal unit. The participants will be recruited and interviewed by a research nurse who prior to this study worked on the renal unit at the hospital. All the required ethics and access approvals have been obtained. The intention is to interview the teenagers at least once, either in their homes or in the care setting.

*2. An ethnographic study – How do midwives support breastfeeding mothers on the postnatal ward?*

The aim is to undertake an ethnographic study at one large NHS care setting where there are three post-natal wards. All the required ethics and access approvals have been obtained. Participants will be recruited by two research midwives who both have full-time research posts at the hospital. Observations will be undertaken on all three post-natal wards for two-hour time periods. A semi-structured data collection tool will be used and recordings will be made every 5 minutes. The two-hour episodes of observation will be undertaken at varying times of the day. An episode of observation will be carried out on every ward at least once per day, seven days a week for one month. The observations will be undertaken by the research midwives and two other midwives who have temporarily been seconded from the workforce to work on the study.

* Select one of the scenarios above
* Having read the scenario do you think that the most appropriate method of data collection has been selected? Provide a rationale for your answer. Suggest alternative or additional data collection methods as you feel appropriate and provide a rationale for your suggestions.
* Identify any potential ethical or logistical factors that may impact successful data collection.
* Suggest strategies that the research team could employ to try to minimise the potential impact of these ethical or logistical factors and to promote the collection of relevant and robust data.