Case Studies

# Chapter 20: Managing and analysing qualitative data

The students have been considering the different ways in which qualitative data can be analysed. They have been asked to identify the most appropriate data analysis methods for 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. Semi-structured interviews will be undertaken using a topic guide. The intention is to interview the teenagers at least once, either in their homes or in the care setting. The data analysis will be undertaken by the research nurse who carried out the interviews.

*2. A grounded theory study of midwives’ support to breastfeeding mothers on the post-natal ward.*

The aim is to undertake a grounded theory study at one large NHS care setting where there are three post-natal wards. All the required ethics and access approvals have been obtained. Semi-structured observations will be undertaken on the post-natal wards. Semi-structured interviews will be carried out with mothers and midwives. Relevant documents will also be analysed. These will include leaflets and other resources regarding breastfeeding available for mothers on the postnatal wards, hospital notes and patient records. The data analysis will be undertaken by the two research midwives who will have recruited the participants and carried out the data collection.

* Select one of the scenarios above
* Which method(s) of data analysis do you think the researchers should use? Write a short paragraph justifying your suggestion.
* Identify any potential ethical or logistical factors that may impact achieving successful data analysis.
* Suggest strategies that the researchers could employ in order to minimise the potential impact of these ethical or logistical factors and to ensure that data analysis is robust.