**iCAHE JC Critical Appraisal Summary**

**Journal Club Details**

- Date of submission: 2012
- Journal Club location: FMC
- JC Facilitator: Sarah Ellinger
- JC Discipline: Speech

**Clinical Scenario**

Article provided by journal club.

**Article/Paper**


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**Article Methodology:** Qualitative

**Returned JC on:** 2012

**By CAHCE staff member:** Olivia Thorpe
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ques No.</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Can’t Tell</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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</table>
| 1        | ✓   |            |    | Was there a clear statement of the aims of the research?  
The aim of this study was to identify the main issues for speech pathologists when decision-making capacity for legal and related matters arose for patients with aphasia and to describe the nature of these issues and the practices of the speech pathologists in these situations. |
| 2        | ✓   |            |    | Is a qualitative methodology appropriate?  
A qualitative study seeks to illuminate, understand or explore any phenomenon about which little is yet known. Taking the study aims into consideration it is appropriate to address these issues using a qualitative methodology.  
Is it worth continuing? YES |
| 3        | ✓   |            |    | Was the research design appropriate to address the aims of the research?  
It has not been explicitly stated which research design has been used; however, it is likely to be descriptive qualitative. This design is appropriate to address the aims of the research.  
Qualitative descriptive is a distinct method of naturalistic inquiry that uses low inference interpretation to present facts using everyday language. This type of qualitative study provides a straight description (closer to the data as given) of the participants’ views and perspectives. |
| 4        | ✓   |            |    | Was the recruitment strategy appropriate to the aims of the research?  
The participants were invited to participate in the study through a regional area health service e-mail distribution, and through distribution of information about the project at a metropolitan professional development forum. |
| 5        | ✓   |            |    | Were the data collected in a way that addressed the research issue?  
Data was collected using semi-structured telephone interviews conducted by author one and verbatim notes were typed simultaneous to the interview. |
Is the relationship between researcher and participants been adequately considered?

The relationship between the researchers and the participants is unclear. Were the interviewers (or authors) previously known to participants? Did participants have a dependent relationship to them such as their health workers? These types of factors will influence the information participants are willing to share and therefore the quality of the data collected.

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How valuable is the research?

Journal club to answer.

The main incidents reported were related to legal decisions: decisions involving consent for medical treatment, discharge, accommodation, and business/financial decisions. Although there were some standardized assessment practices, this was of lesser importance than informal observations in function.

Is there a clear statement of findings?

The method of analysis is unclear; however, it is likely to be content analysis. Rigor was maintained through the use of verbatim notes, collecting data until data saturation was reached and having two authors independently involved in the analysis for validation.

Was the data analysis sufficiently rigorous?

The study was approved by the University of Newcastle Human Research Ethics Committee and the Hunter Area Research Ethics Committee.