Understanding “respectable addiction”: exploring over-the-counter codeine dependence in Northern Tasmania

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Overview

- Aim of my research
- Brief explanation of Q methodology
- My research to date
- Issues for discussion
Research Aim

To explore the opinions of people dependent on over-the-counter codeine and to situate their views within the formal theories of addiction.
Q Methodology Overview

• Useful way to study opinions

• Combines aspects of qualitative and quantitative methods

• Involves participants ranking a set of opinion **statements** according to their personal views (the Q sort)

• Inverted factor analysis identifies Q sorts that have been arranged in similar ways (people with shared views about the topic)
## Development of the Q sample

- a manageable, representative sample of opinion statements (40-80) for participants to rank order during the Q sort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literature review</th>
<th>842 statements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COM-B theory of behaviour</td>
<td>111 statements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delphi panel of addiction experts</td>
<td>46 statements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Development of the Q sample – Delphi component

• Panel rated opinion statements on a 5 point likert scale

• Example statements:
  1. “There is little difference between an OTC codeine addict and an injecting drug addict “
  2. “An addict needs professional help”
  3. “OTC codeine addicts are accidental addicts”

Choice of terminology – addiction or dependence?
How should consensus be determined?
Recruitment of regular (long-term daily) users of OTC codeine (n=99)

Facebook and Gumtree for participant recruitment?
For discussion

– Choice of terminology for this study – addiction or dependence?

– How to determine consensus for Delphi technique

– Participant recruitment via Facebook and Gumtree
Thank-you

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