Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ): 32-item checklist

| No | Item | Guide questions/description | Author response |
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| **Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity** | | | |
| Personal Characteristics | | | |
| 1. | Interviewer/facilitator | Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group? | Robin Urquhart [RU]; stated in text (methods section) |
| 2. | Credentials | What were the researcher's credentials? *E.g. PhD, MD* | PhD; indicated on author byline |
| 3. | Occupation | What was their occupation at the time of the study? | Assistant Professor, Surgery |
| 4. | Gender | Was the researcher male or female? | Female; indicated in text via use of pronoun "she" (methods section) |
| 5. | Experience and training | What experience or training did the researcher have? | PhD + PI on various studies using qualitative methods |
| Relationship with participants | | | |
| 6. | Relationship established | Was a relationship established prior to study commencement? | Stated in text (methods section) |
| 7. | Participant knowledge of the interviewer | What did the participants know about the researcher? e.*g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research* | Stated in text (methods section) |
| 8. | Interviewer characteristics | What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. *Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic* | Reasons for interest stated in text, i.e., prior research on referral and adjuvant therapy utilization patterns (introduction section) |
| **Domain 2: study design** | | | |

| Theoretical framework | | | |
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| 9. | Methodological orientation and Theory | What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? *e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis* | Grounded theory; stated in text (methods section) |
| Participant selection | | | |
| 10. | Sampling | How were participants selected? *e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball* | Purposive; stated in text (methods section) |
| 11. | Method of approach | How were participants approached? e.*g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email* | Email or telephone; stated in text (methods section) |
| 12. | Sample size | How many participants were in the study? | 29; stated in text (results section) |
| 13. | Non-participation | How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons? | 2; stated in text (results section) |
| Setting | | | |
| 14. | Setting of data collection | Where was the data collected? e.*g. home, clinic, workplace* | Work office or telephone; stated in text (methods section) |
| 15. | Presence of non-participants | Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers? | No; stated in text (methods section) |
| 16. | Description of sample | What are the important characteristics of the sample? *e.g. demographic data, date* | Location of practice, sex, years of practice; all stated in text (results section) |
| Data collection | | | |
| 17. | Interview guide | Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested? | Yes and yes; interview guide was pilot tested, stated in text (methods section) |
| 18. | Repeat interviews | Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many? | No; stated in text (results section) |
| 19. | Audio/visual recording | Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data? | Yes, audio recording; stated in text (methods section) |

| 20. | Field notes | Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group? | Yes; stated in text (methods section) |
| 21. | Duration | What was the duration of the interviews or focus group? | 20-49 minutes; stated in text (results section) |
| 22. | Data saturation | Was data saturation discussed? | Yes (methods section) |
| 23. | Transcripts returned | Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction? | No, but participants were provided a summary of the preliminary findings; stated in text (methods section) |
| **Domain 3: analysis and findings** | | | |
| Data analysis | | | |
| 24. | Number of data coders | How many data coders coded the data? | Two coded first 14 transcripts, one coded remaining 15 transcripts; stated in text (methods section) |
| 25. | Description of the coding tree | Did authors provide a description of the coding tree? | Authors provided description of how coding tree was developed (methods section) |
| 26. | Derivation of themes | Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data? | Derived from the data; analysis process discussed in text (methods section) |
| 27. | Software | What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data? | Yes, NVivo; stated in text (methods section) |
| 28. | Participant checking | Did participants provide feedback on the findings? | Participants were provided a summary of the preliminary findings and invited to provide feedback (methods section); four responded confirming the findings |
| Reporting | | | |
| 29. | Quotations presented | Were participant quotations presented to illustrate | Yes (results section) |

| | | the themes / findings? Was each quotation identified? e.*g. participant number* | |
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| 30. | Data and findings consistent | Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings? | Yes |
| 31. | Clarity of major themes | Were major themes clearly presented in the findings? | Yes |
| 32. | Clarity of minor themes | Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes? | The main categories comprise all substantive issues that emerged during data collection. |