Supplementary Material S1

COREQ (Consolidated Criteria for Reporting Qualitative Research) 32-Item Checklist

Manuscript Title: Diagnostic delay among newly diagnosed pulmonary hypertension patients: A narrative study based on the social-ecological system theory

Supplementary File:COREQ Checklist

Instructions:This checklist is completed according to the COREQ guidelines (Tong et al., 2007). For each item, we provide the specific location(s) in the manuscript where the information is reported.

No.	Item	Guide Questions/Description	Reported Location(s)
Domain 1: Research Team and Reflexivity			
Personal Characteristics			
1	Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interviews or focus group s?	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). Interviews were conducted b y the core research team members.
2	Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials? (e.g., PhD, MD)	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). The interview guide was reviewed by two nursing experts and one PH specialist physician.
3	Occupation	What was the occupation of the researchers at the time of the study?	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). Researchers were affiliated with a tertiary hospital and academic institution.
4	Gender	Was the researcher male or female?	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). Interviews were conducted by a

			female nursing researcher and a male clinical collaborator.
5	Experience and training	What was the researcher's experience and training?	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). The draft guide was refined through pilot interviews with two patients. Researchers acted as active listeners using empathy and probing techniques.
Relationship with participants			
6	Relationship established	Was a relationship established before the study commenced?	Section 2.4 (Study Setting and Recruitment). Recruitment was conducted via collaboration with clinical nursing staff. The researcher explained the study purpose to eligible participants prior to the interview.
7	Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher? (e.g., personal goals, reasons for doing the research)	Section 2.4 (Study Setting and Recruitment). Detailed explanation of the study's purpose, content, and significance was provided. Informed consent was obtained after ensuring full comprehension.
8	Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics of the interviewer were reported? (e.g., bias, assumptions, research interest)	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). The researcher acted as an active listener and co-constructor of narratives. Researcher reflexivity journals were maintained as part of quality control.
Domain 2: Study Design			

Theoretical framework			
9	Methodological orientation and theory	What methodological orientation was used (e.g., grounded theory, phenomenology, content analysis)?	Section 2.2 (Design) and 2.3 (Theoretical Framework). A qualitative narrative research paradigm was adopted, underpinned by the Social-Ecological System Theory (Bronfenbrenner / Zastrow).
Participant selection			
10	Sampling	How were participants selected? (e.g., purposive, convenience, snowball)	Section 2.4 (Study Setting and Recruitment). Purposive sampling was used.
11	Method of approach	How were participants approached? (e.g., face-to-face, telephone, mail)	Section 2.4 (Study Setting and Recruitment). Participants were approached face-to-face via collaboration with clinical nursing staff.
12	Sample size	How many participants were in the study?	Section 3.1 (Characteristics of Participants). Sixteen participants (N=16) were included.
13	Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	Section 2.4 (Study Setting and Recruitment). All eligible patients approached agreed to participate.
Setting			
14	Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? (e.g., home, clinic, workplace)	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). Face-to-face interviews were

			conducted in private, quiet settings at participants' convenience.
15	Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	Yes, in some cases. As evident in the raw interview files (e.g., Narratives #1, #4, #11, #14), family members/caregivers were present and contributed. This is reflected in the manuscript quotations (e.g., family member of N1).
16	Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample? (e.g., demographic data)	Section 3.1 and Table 1. Detailed demographics including sex, age, education, residence, insurance type, PH severity, WHO functional class, and diagnostic delay duration are provided.
Data collection			
17	Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, or guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). A semi-structured guide was developed based on the social-ecological framework. It was reviewed by two experts and one PH physician, and refined via pilot interviews with two patients.
18	Repeat interviews	Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many?	Not applicable. No repeat interviews were conducted.
19	Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect data?	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). All interviews were audio-recorded with participant consent.

20	Field notes	Were field notes made during and/or after the interview?	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). Triangulation included interviews, observation notes, and medical records.
21	Duration	What was the duration of the interviews or focus groups?	Section 2.6 (Data Collection). Interviews lasted 30–60 minutes.
22	Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed?	Section 2.5 (Inclusion/Exclusion). Data saturation was confirmed after the 14th interview (no new themes emerged). Sixteen patients were included to consolidate findings.
23	Transcripts returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?	Section 2.6 (Data Collection) – Quality control. Yes. Member checking was explicitly conducted as part of the quality control strategy, which involved returning or summarizing transcripts/interpretations to participants for verification and feedback.
Domain 3: Analysis and Findings			
Data analysis			
24	Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?	Section 2.7 (Data Analysis). Two researchers independently coded and cross-checked the data.
25	Description of the coding tree	Did the authors provide a description of the coding tree?	Sections 2.7 & 3.0. The social-ecological theory lens guided the identification of micro, meso, and macro content. The 11

			sub-themes are systematically categorized within these three structures in the Findings section.
26	Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	Section 2.7. Thematic analysis using the Colaizzi seven-step method was used. Themes were derived from the narrative data and then classified into the three theoretical system levels.
27	Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	Section 2.7 (Data Analysis). No qualitative software was used; data coding and management were performed manually.
28	Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	Section 2.6 (Data Collection) – Quality control. Yes. Member checking was explicitly listed as one of the quality control measures.
Reporting			
29	Quotations presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotation identified?	Section 3 (Findings) and Section 4 (Discussion). Extensive participant quotations are provided. Each quotation is identified with a participant code (e.g., N1, N5, N11).
30	Data and findings consistent	Was the data presented consistent with the findings?	Sections 3 & 4. The narrative extracts directly support the identified themes and sub-themes.
31	Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	Section 3. Three major themes (Microsystem, Mesosystem,

			Macrosystem) and 11 sub-themes are clearly delineated.
32	Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	Section 3 & Section 5. Diverse cases are presented within each sub-theme. Study limitations and nuances are discussed in the Strengths and Limitations section.

Reference:

Tong, A., Sainsbury, P., & Craig, J. (2007). Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32-item checklist for interviews and focus group s. International Journal for Quality in Health Care, 19(6), 349–357.