

Application of qualitative research findings

The purpose of qualitative research is to describe, understand, or explain phenomenon important to nursing. **Phenomena** are those things that are perceived by our senses. For example, pain and losing a loved one are considered phenomena. In a qualitative study, the researcher gathers narrative data that uses the participants' voices and experiences to describe the phenomenon under investigation. [Barbour and Barbour \(2003\)](#) offer that qualitative research can provide the opportunity to give voice to those who have been disenfranchised and have no history. Therefore, the application of qualitative findings will necessarily be context-bound ([Russell & Gregory, 2003](#)).

Qualitative research also has the ability to contribute to evidenced-based practice literature ([Anthony & Jack, 2009](#); [Cesario et al., 2002](#); [Donnelly & Wiechula, 2013](#); [Walsh & Downe, 2005](#)). Describing the lived human experience of patients can contribute to the improvement of care, adding a dimension of understanding to our work as it is described by those who live it on a day-to-day basis. Fundamentally, principles for evaluating qualitative research are the same. Reviewers are concerned with the plausibility and trustworthiness of the researcher's account of the findings and its potential and/or actual relevance to current or future theory and practice ([Horsburgh, 2003](#); [Ingham-Bloomfield, 2015](#); [Pearson et al., 2015](#); [Sandelowski, 2015](#); [Williams, 2015](#)). As a framework for understanding how the appraisal of qualitative research can support evidence-based practice, a published research report and critical appraisal criteria follow ([Table 7.1](#)). The critical appraisal criteria will be used to demonstrate the process of appraising a qualitative research report. For information on specific guidelines for appraisal of phenomenology, ethnog-