

Table 1. Characteristics of included studies

First author, year of publication	Country of study	Diagnosis	Sample	Method of approach	Selected items from the Critical Appraisal Checklist for Interpretive and Critical Research [30]			
					Congruity between philosophical perspective and methodology? ⁱ	Researcher located culturally or theoretically? ⁱⁱ	Influence of the researcher addressed? ⁱⁱⁱ	Perspectives represented in study ^{iv}
Braj, 1999	Canada	Haemodialysis patients	3 M	Semi structured interview	Yes	No	Unclear	Adol/YA
Brumfield, 2004	Australia	Cystic fibrosis	6 3 F, 3 M	Semi structured interview	Unclear	Yes	No	Adol/YA
Hauser, 1999	USA	Sickle cell disease	22 (no gender information)	Focus group	Unclear	Unclear	No	Adol/YA Parents Professionals
Jones, 2003	UK	Diabetes	8 6 F, 2 M	Semi structured interview	Yes	No	No	Adol/YA
Kirk, 2008	UK	Complex health care needs	28 11 F, 17 M	Semi structured interview	Unclear	No	No	Adol/YA
McCurdy, 2006	Canada	Transplant recipients	17 3 F, 14 M	Focus group	Yes	Yes	Yes	Adol/YA Professionals Documents
Miles, 2004	UK	HIV positive	7 2 F, 5 M	Semi structured interview	Unclear	No	No	Adolescents

Moons, 2009	Belgium	Congenital heart disease	14 8 F, 6 M	Semi structured interview	Yes	Yes	Adol/YA	
Patterson, 1999	USA	Special health care needs	7 5 F, 2 M	Focus group	Unclear	Yes	No	Adol/YA
Reiss, 2005	USA	Disabilities and special health care needs	49 25 F, 24 M	Other qualitative approaches	Unclear	No	No	Adol/YA Family Professionals
Shaw, 2004	UK	Juvenile idiopathic arthritis	30 19 F, 11 M	Focus group	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Adol/YA parents
Soanes, 2004	UK	Chronic illness	7 2 F, 5 M	Semi structured interview	Unclear	No	Unclear	Adol/YA
Stabile, 2005	USA	Transplantatation	24 (no gender information)	Other qualitative approaches	Unclear	Yes	No	Adol/YA
Tuchman, 2008	USA	Chronic illness	22 (no gender information)	Other qualitative approaches	Unclear	No	No	Adol/YA
Valenzuela, 2009	USA	Behaviourally acquired HIV	10 7 F, 3 M	Semi structured interview	Unclear	No	No	Adol/YA
Wiener, 2009	USA	HIV	59 29 F, 30 M	Other qualitative approaches	Unclear	No	No	Adol/YA

Wray, 2008	UK	Congenital heart disease	38 (no gender information)	Other qualitative approaches	Unclear	No	No	Adol/YA
Østlie, 2007	Norway	Juvenile idiopathic arthritis	16 14 F, 2 M	Focus group	Unclear	No	Yes	Adol/YA Professionals

M=Male F=Female Adol=Adolescents YA= Young Adults

- ⁱ Equivalent to question no. 1 in the Critical Appraisal Checklist for Interpretive and Critical Research [30]
ⁱⁱ Equivalent to question no. 6 in the Critical Appraisal Checklist for Interpretive and Critical Research [30]
ⁱⁱⁱ Equivalent to question no. 7 in the Critical Appraisal Checklist for Interpretive and Critical Research [30]
^{iv} Equivalent to question no. 8 in the Critical Appraisal Checklist for Interpretive and Critical Research [30]

Table 3. Metasummary of characteristics of included studies

Item	No. of studies reporting each item (n=18)
Theoretical methodological framework	
Described/qualitative design?	15
Not described	3
Sampling	
Purposive	13
Consecutive	3
Opportunistic	1
Convenience	1
Other informants than adolescents	
Yes	5
No	13
Setting of data collection	
Hospital area	5
Participants' home	3
Telephone/postal surveys	3
No information	7
Personal characteristics interviewer/facilitator	
Interviewers' occupation or education/training skills	15
Age	1
Reflection on personal beliefs	1
No information	1
Relationship between interviewer and participants	
Professional relationship	5
Researcher-participant relation	4
Making rapport during the interviews	1
No information	8
Studies describing number of participants involved in the inclusion process	
Contacted	6
Meeting inclusion criteria	10
Included	18
Refused to participate/not responding	10
Reasons for not participating/drop out	6
Data collection method	
Semi-structured interview guide	15
Standardized questions	2
One single open data-generating question	1
Repeated interviews	
Yes	3
Not described	15
Pilot testing	
Yes	1
Not described	17
Data (or theoretical) saturation	
Not described	18
Notes taken in addition to interviews	

Yes	10
Not described	8
Audio/visual recording	
Audiotaped and transcribed verbatim	17
Recorded	1
Transcripts or/and analysis returned to participants	
Yes	4
No	14
Data analyzing style	
Template analysis style	0
Editing analysis style	18
Intuitive Immersion/crystallization analysis style	0
Data coders	
Research team of two or more coders	11
Not described	7
Use of software	
NVivo, Atlas, Ethnograph	6
Not described	12

Table 4. Meta-synthesis. Overarching theme, sub-themes and categories

Categories	Being in limbo moving from familiar to unknown ward cultures and achieving responsibility, depend on timing of transfer and facing changes in significant relationships														
	<i>Facing changes of significant relationships</i>			<i>Moving from familiar to unknown ward cultures</i>			<i>Timing of transfer</i>			<i>Achieving responsibility</i>					
	Relationships with professionals			Different cultures			Timing of transfer			Ownership		Independence		Information	
	Relationships with peers			Change of status			Process of transfer			Indifference		Facilities		Involvement	
Psycho-social factors			Need for continuity			Indifference			Ownership		Independence		Information		
Need for continuity			Timing of transfer			Process of transfer			Indifference		Ownership		Independence		
Timing of transfer			Process of transfer			Indifference			Ownership		Independence		Information		
Process of transfer			Indifference			Ownership			Independence		Information		Facilities		
Indifference			Ownership			Independence			Information		Facilities		Involvement		
Ownership			Independence			Information			Facilities		Involvement		Need for support		
Independence			Information			Facilities			Involvement		Need for support		Communication		
Information			Facilities			Involvement			Need for support		Communication				
Facilities			Involvement			Need for support			Communication						
Involvement			Need for support			Communication									
Need for support			Communication												
Communication															

