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Cracking the Code: The Systematic Development of a Matrix to Increase Credible and Dependable Coding of Qualitative Data

Greta Gray, MS, OTR/L

Thomas Jefferson University, greta.gray@students.jefferson.edu

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Title of the Doctoral Presentation: Cracking the Code: The Systematic Development of a Matrix to Increase Credible and Dependable Coding of Qualitative Data

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Authors: Greta Gray MS, OTR/L, Marie-Christine Potvin PhD, OTR/L

Affiliations: *Thomas Jefferson University, Department of Occupational Therapy, 901 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107*

Abstract: A systematic, credible, and dependable coding matrix was developed to deductively code the qualitative data from the *Clinician's Perceptions of Infusing Coaching into their Occupational Therapy Practice* study (CPIC). A coding matrix is used to organize qualitative data into meaningful units of text to be interpreted by the researchers. Codes for this project were deductively organized under categories from Roger's Diffusion of Innovation Theory (RDIT), a framework that identifies how a new idea is adopted in practice. Five preliminary coders, with one leading the process, participated in the development of the coding matrix to reduce the risk of bias influencing the coding of the data. There was a total of ten rounds of preliminary coding necessary to develop the coding matrix. Two preliminary coders' coding was considered and analyzed for each round of coding. After each round of coding had occurred, the lead coder calculated percentages agreement and analyzed similarities and discrepancies between coders. Then, the preliminary coders met to discuss codes, discrepancies, agreements, and definitions. New preliminary coders were integrated into the coding matrix development process at intervals to enhance the clarity of the coding matrix. The results was the creation of a systematic, credible, and dependable coding matrix with 80% interrater reliability. Coding ended at the tenth round when no additional categories or codes emerged from the data. The coding matrix includes definitions of categories and codes, examples of codes, and coding notes. The completed coding matrix will be used to code the transcripts in the CPIC study.

Synopsis: Through this project, an organized list of codes by categories, or coding matrix, was developed for the *Clinician's Perceptions of Infusing Coaching into Practice* study. A systematic and rigorous process was used to increase the credibility and dependability of the coding matrix. The process included an audit trail, multiple preliminary coders, preliminary coding data analysis, and a reflexivity journal.

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Keywords: *Qualitative methodology, coding matrix development, Coaching in Context Model, Roger's Diffusion of Innovation Theory*

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