Supplementary Table 1. Characteristics of the articles included in the review

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| **Authors**  | **Year**  | **Location and setting** | **Study aim** | **Term used to describe rapid ethnography** | **Study duration** | **Methods of data collection** | **Sample and specification of single or multi-sited research** | **Quality appraisal** |
| Coreil, J., et al. (33)  | 1989 | Haiti | Identification of barriers to immunization use | Rapid ethnographic assessment (REA) | 3 months | Focus groups Natural groups Interviews Observations | 60 mothers, 14 staff membersMulti-sitedresearch | \*\* |
| Agyepong, I. and L. Manderson (34) | 1994 | Ghana | Describe the folk diagnosis, etiology and management of malaria | Rapid ethnographic assessment (REA) | 5 months | Focus groupsIn-depth interviewsObservation | 460 householdsMulti-sited research | \*\* |
| Needle, R., et al. (40) | 2003 | US  | Address the disproportionate ongoing HIV/AIDS crisis in racial/ethnic minority populations | RARE | 3 months | Key informant interviews ObservationFocus GroupsMapping and geocoding  | 196 interviews (61 key informant interviews, 118 brief interviews, and 17 focus groups)Multi-sited research | \*\*\* |
| Goepp, J. et al. (41) | 2004 | Bolivia | Obtain social and cultural data about factors affecting the development of emergency medical services for children | Rapid assessment procedure (RAP) | 10 days | In-depth interviews, small group interviewsParticipant-observationDocumentary analysisAnalysis of secondary data sources | 49 participants (doctors, nurses, and families)Numbers per group NSSingle-site research | \*\*\* |
| Hundt, G., et al. (37) | 2004 | South Africa | Explore the growing problem of cardiovascular disease in rural Africa and how best to respond. Explore how Mozambican and South African stroke sufferers understand their somatic afflictions and how they utilize healers, prophets and doctors.  | Rapid ethnographic assessment (REA) | NS | ObservationSemi-structured individual and group interviews Participatory techniques (health walks, ranking and mapping) | 125 community members (including doctors and healers), 35 stroke sufferersMulti-sited research | \*\*\* |
| McElroy, T. et al. (26) | 2007 | Uganda | Identify barriers to adherence to the Ponseti method of clubfoot treatment in Uganda | Rapid ethnography | 1 month | Semi-structured interviews Focus Groups Observation | 42 parents, 2 adult patients, 40 community leaders, 39 traditional healers, 38 HCPs. 24 male and 24 female FG participants. Multi-sited research | \*\*\* |
| Goepp, J. et al. (38) | 2008 | USA | Identify potential barriers to and facilitators of inpatient palliative care utilization at a large urban hospital | Rapid ethnographic assessment (REA) | NS | In-depth interviews  | 23 HCPsSingle-site research | \*\*\* |
| Chesluk, B. and E. Holmboe (24) | 2010 | USA | Analysis of team work dynamics in internal medicine practices | Rapid ethnography | 5-6 days in each practice | Interviews Observations | 5 doctors, 19 administrators, 9 patientsMulti-sited research | \*\*\* |
| Mullaney, T. et al. (8) | 2012 | Sweden | Patients’ experiences of radiotherapy treatment | Quick ethnography | 2 months | Shadowing of radiotherapy staff Observation | 24 nurses, 14 patients, 2 doctors, and 4 radiophysicistsSingle-site research | \*\*\* |
| Mason, B., et al. (32)  | 2013 | UK | Identify how and to what extent end of life care is coordinated in generalist care settings for patients with progressive conditions | Focused ethnography | 22 weeks | Semi-structured interviews Ethnographic observations | 56 patients, 25 carers, 17 HCPsMulti-sited research | \*\*\* |
| Scott, K. et al. (36) | 2013 | Sierra Leone | Examine how households navigate the landscape of healthcare options that exist in plural health systems | Rapid ethnographic assessment (REA) | 2 months | Semi-structured interviews In-depth interviews Focus group discussions  | 36 FG participants (parents and older female caregivers), 68 interviews (49 mothers, 19 older female caregivers)Multi-sited research | \*\*\*\* |
| Choy, I., et al. (28) | 2013 | West Africa | Analyze barriers to the adoption of laparoscopic surgery at a hospital in a LMIC | Rapid ethnography | 10 weeks | Participant-observation Semi-structured interviews Documentary analysis | 13 HCPsSingle-site research | \*\* |
| Jayawardena, A., et al. (25) | 2013 | Sri Lanka | Describing the successes and barriers to the Train the Trainer approach using Sri Lanka as a model country | Rapid ethnography | 5 months | Interviews Focus Groups Direct observation | 45 parents, 9 doctors, 6 nursesMulti-sited research | \*\*\* |
| Schwitters, A. et al. (29) | 2015 | Mozambique | Identify community health practices and attitudes, including potential acceptance and use of mobile health clinics | Rapid ethnography | 3 months | Structured and semi-structured interviews Observation  | 117 community members (56 women and 61 men)Multi-sited research | \*\*\* |
| Saleem, J. et al. (11) | 2015 | US | To evaluate the current use of Clinical Information Systems for intensive care units and Anesthesia Record Keeping for operating rooms and post-anesthesia care recovery settings  | Rapid ethnography | 2 months | Ethnographic observations (with participant shadowing) Opportunistic interviews Semi-structured interviews | 19 key informant interviewsMulti-sited research | \*\* |
| Chesluk, B., et al. (31) | 2015 | USA | Document everyday practices by which hospitalist physicians negotiate barriers to effective teamwork | Rapid ethnography | 5 months | Observations  Semi-structured interviews | 4 hospitalists (2 male and 2 female)Multi-sited research | \*\*\* |
| Wright, A., et al. Ash, J., et al. Ash, J., et al. (42-44) | 2015, 2012, 2010 | USA | Identify challenges, lessons learned and best practices for service-oriented clinical decision support | Rapid assessment procedure (RAP) | 2 weeks at each site | Interviews Observations | 91 staff membersMulti-sited research | \*\*\*\* |
| Culhane-Pera, K., et al. (27) | 2015 | Thailand | Identify Hmong families' socio-cultural reasons for using and not using maternity services and suggest ways to improve service use | Rapid ethnography | 6 months | Semi-structured interviews Focus groups Informal discussions | 16 women, 12 husbands, 17 family membersSingle-site research | \*\*\* |
| Hussain, R., et al. (30) | 2015 | India | Understand the sociopolitical and historical dimensions of the polio disparity between Muslims and Hindus in India | Rapid ethnography | 4 months | Participant-observation Structured, semi-structured and unstructured interviews  | 80 families and 27 stakeholders in the eradication programMulti-sited research | \*\*\* |
| Harte, D. et al. (46) | 2016 | Australia | Identify the built environment design factors that influence the experiences of childbirth supporters | Short-term focused video ethnographic case study | 2 months | Interviews Video observation | 1 patient, 4 family members, 3 midwivesSingle-site research | \*\*\*\* |
| Murray, J. et al. (48) | 2016 | Thailand | Identify barriers and facilitating factors for ART | Rapid ethnographic assessment (REA) | 2 months | Direct observation Semi-structured interviews | 16 migrants, 5 nurses, and 2 local care administratorSingle-site research | \*\*\*\* |
| Patmon, F. et al. (45) | 2016 | US | Examine nurses' perceptions of patient engagement technology systems. Identify barriers and promoting factors that affect utilization | Focused Rapid Ethnographic Evaluation (FREE) | NS | Participant -observation Semi-structured interviews | 38 nursesMulti-sited research | \*\*\*\* |
| Shaw, B., et al. (47)  | 2016 | Ethiopia | Elicit perceptions and experiences of caregivers to better understand reasons for low utilization of services | Rapid ethnographic assessment (REA) | 1 month | Focus groupsInterviews | 40 from interviews, 132 from focus groups Participants included parents, health extension workers, and community volunteersMulti-sited research | \*\*\* |
| Ackerman, S., et al. (9) | 2017 | US | Understand efforts to implement portals in safety net health care systems that provide services for low-income populations | Rapid ethnography | 3 months | In-depth interviewsFocus groupsObservationsSurvey | 12 clinicians, 35 front-line staff, 45 survey participantsMulti-sited research | \*\*\* |

HCPs: healthcare professionals NS: not specified Quality appraisal: \*\*\*\* highest quality