



# Understanding Patient Adherence to Hypertension Management Guidelines

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the introduction, the delineation of research gaps could be clearer. Specifically, address how this study's findings will fill these gaps beyond the existing literature cited, such as Ahmad et al. (2018) and Milchak et al. (2006).

Provide a more detailed breakdown of the participant demographics. The current description lacks specifics about ethnicity and socioeconomic status, which are crucial for understanding the context of adherence behaviors.

Elaborate on the criteria used for achieving theoretical saturation in your qualitative analysis. This will strengthen the validity of the study design as described in the "Methods and Materials" section.

Deepen the analysis of how cultural beliefs influence patient adherence. Consider incorporating more direct quotes from participants to illustrate these impacts vividly, thereby enriching the "Personal and Social Influences" theme.

Conclude with specific suggestions for future research, such as longitudinal studies to track changes in adherence over time or experimental studies to test the effectiveness of specific interventions identified as promising in this study.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Ensure consistency in the use of terms related to hypertension management across the paper. For instance, differentiate clearly between 'guidelines', 'protocols', and 'recommendations' where applicable to avoid ambiguity.

Provide a more nuanced interpretation of the "Health System Factors" theme. Discuss potential interventions that could be specifically tailored based on your findings, such as modifications in healthcare delivery or educational programs.

Update references where newer studies are available, especially those cited from earlier than 2010, to reflect the most current research and guidelines in hypertension management.

Standardize the formatting of tables and figures to enhance readability. Ensure that all visual elements are clearly labeled and referenced in the text.

Include the semi-structured interview guide as an appendix or describe the key questions in the manuscript. This will help in assessing the comprehensiveness of the topics covered relative to the study objectives.

Strengthen the description of the NVivo analysis process. Specify which coding strategy was used (e.g., open, axial, selective) and how discrepancies in coding were resolved among researchers.

Tie the results more explicitly to existing literature on patient adherence, particularly contrasting findings from similar studies like Nguyen et al. (2017) and Edmealem et al. (2022). Highlight any discrepancies and provide potential reasons based on your data.

Detail the methods used for ensuring the trustworthiness of qualitative data, such as triangulation, reflexivity statements from researchers, or the inclusion of negative cases in the analysis.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.