Epi 240
Qualitative Approaches in Clinical and Translational Research

Session 6
Coding and Memoing
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What's up today

- In-class small group work on grounded theory coding (40 mins)
- De-brief and discussion of memoing/assignment 3 (20 mins)
- Feedback (10 mins)

Metaphors for coding and memoing

GT coding exercise (40 mins)

- In groups of 3, practice coding some data in grounded-theory style
- Round 1: Line coding
- Review/discuss with group
- Round 2: Word coding
- Discuss with group

A. Remain open
B. Stay close to the data
C. Keep codes simple and precise
D. Construct short codes
E. Preserve action
F. Compare data with data
G. Move quickly

Grounded Theory coding exercise: Themes

- Patient Interview
  - How culture informs understandings and course of cancer
  - Spirituality and religious cultures
  - Immigration-related changes in SES and culture
- Provider Interview
  - How informal practices allow safety-net ED to function
  - Provider/house-staff cultures of overwork
  - Safety-net ED mission and surfing adversity
- Focus Group Interview
  - The impossibility of separating language and culture
  - The role of interpreters in bridging language and culture links
  - How culture/language are grounded in prior experiences of care and illness

GT coding exercise: De-brief

Coding and memoing in prep for assignment 3

- Experiment with what kind of coding works for you & your project
  - Grounded theory (bottom-up)
  - Hypothesis or problem-driven (top down)
  - Freeform
- Memo'ing
  - Stimulate new creativity, self-reflection & material
  - productivity = (low stakes)*(small audience)*(manageable goal)
  - Cluster writing and free writing
  - Mindmapping and other software tricks