Chapter 4: The Role of Interpretation

Frosh, S. and Emerson, P.D. (2005) Interpretation and over-interpretation: disputing the meaning of texts, *Qualitative Research*, 5(3): 307-24.
This article is useful in its foregrounding of the epistemological challenges associated with qualitative research in psychology and the exploration of different epistemological positions available in relation to research and interpretation. The authors present a psychoanalytic reading alongside a discourse analysis of the same material in order to highlight and tease out different interpretive strategies and positions. The article also deals with methodological issues associated with different interpretive strategies and questions of power and accountability associated with different methods of interpretation and research.

Debesay, J., Nåden, D. & Slettebø, Å. (2008) How do we close the hermeneutic circle? A Gadamerian approach to justification in interpretation in qualitative studies, *Nursing Inquiry*, 15(1):57-66.
This article is a useful theoretical piece exploring stances to interpretation within qualitative research. The authors review the philosophy of hermeneutics and the hermeneutic circle and consider the theoretical and methodological difficulties associated with interpretation and the presentation of findings.

Priest, H., Roberts, P., Woods, L. (2002) An overview of three different approaches to the interpretation of qualitative data. Part 1: Theoretical issues, *Nurse Researchers*, 10(1):30-42
Woods, L. Priest, H., Roberts, P. (2002) An overview of three different approaches to the interpretation of qualitative data. Part 2: practical illustrations, *Nurse Researchers*, 10(1):43-51
The authors offer a clear and concise review of the form of interpretation associated with three main research methodologies used in nursing and healthcare research, namely grounded theory, qualitative content analysis and narrative analysis. In part one, the researchers review the philosophical basis and analytical steps associated with each. In part 2, the researchers present a worked example of a data extract analysed from each of the three perspectives.