

OBJECTIVES

- To gain an in-depth understanding of the non-technical skills used in the management of impacted fetal head at caesarean section
- To identify lessons for training

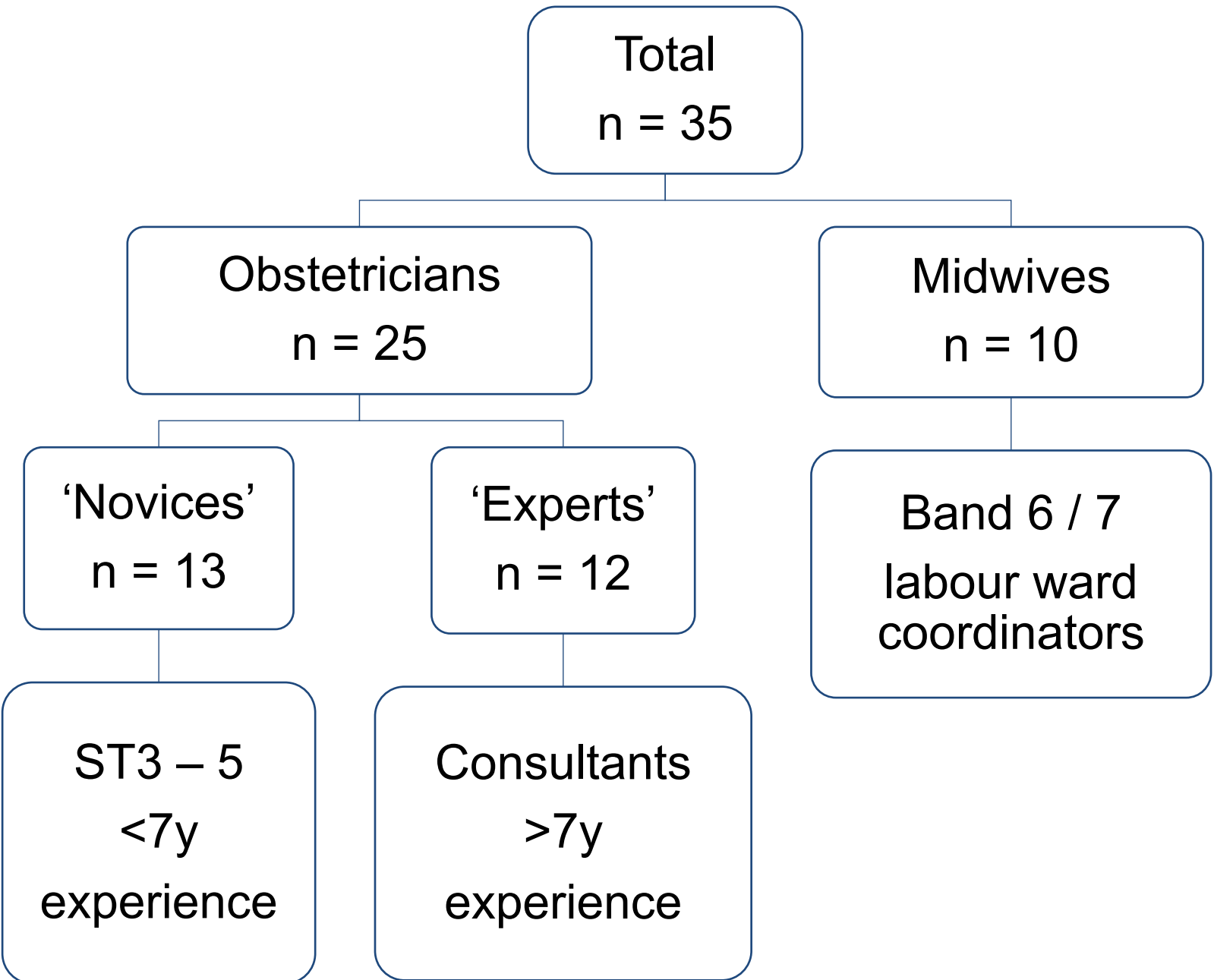
DESIGN

- Observation of real-time, simulated caesarean birth using a validated, high-fidelity simulator
- Semi-structured interviews

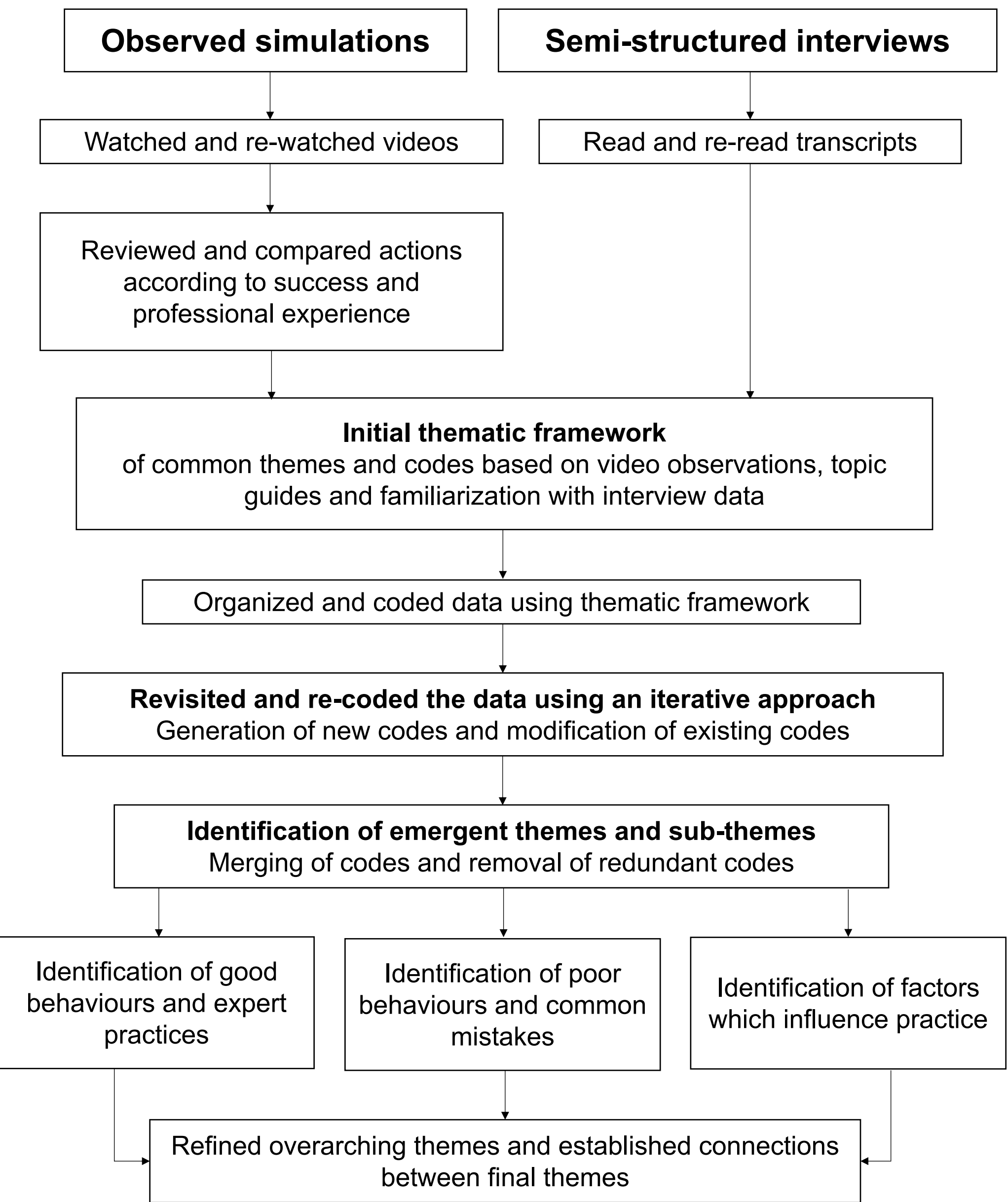
METHODS

	35 obstetricians & midwives
	3 maternity units in Southwest England
	September – December 2019
	Purposive maximum variation sampling
	3 standardised simulated scenarios
	Individually audio-visually recorded
	Semi-structured audio-recorded interview

PARTICIPANTS



ANALYSIS



“Not very confident. I just – they do really scare me and I know that – I’m very aware of how much pressure I’m putting on. Trying to have poker face but inside just panicking and things.”
Novice obstetrician

“So it would be useful to declare the emergency, call for help, make sure the message is transmitted effectively and completely and that would require probably the parents being aware of it.”
Expert obstetrician

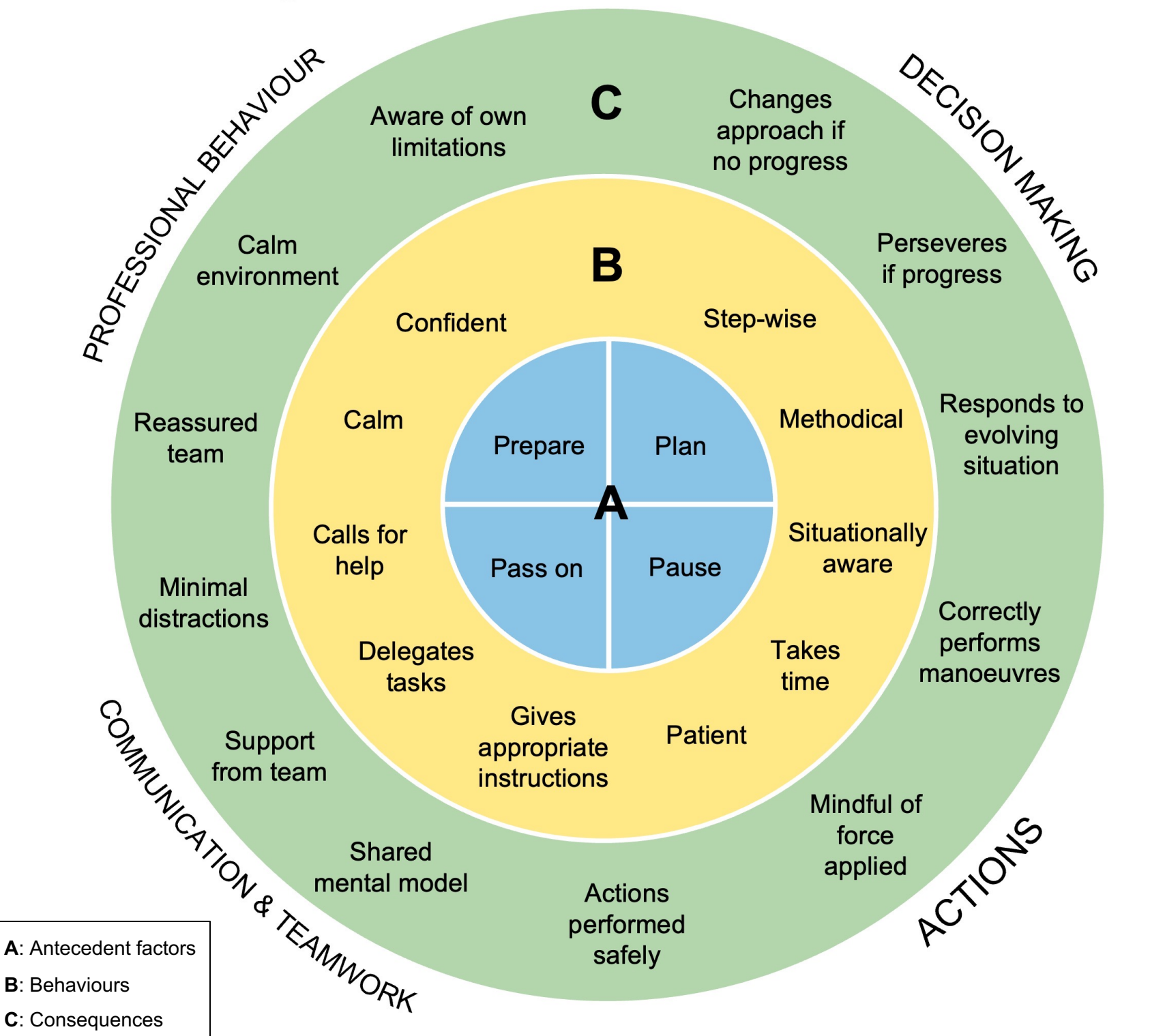
“I think the main thing is the communication so when it doesn’t work well it’s because people haven’t communicated effectively what’s going on. It’s been like a situation awareness, people might get too focused on what they’re doing.”
Midwife

“One of the most stressful things that you anticipate happening during your on-calls.”
Novice obstetrician

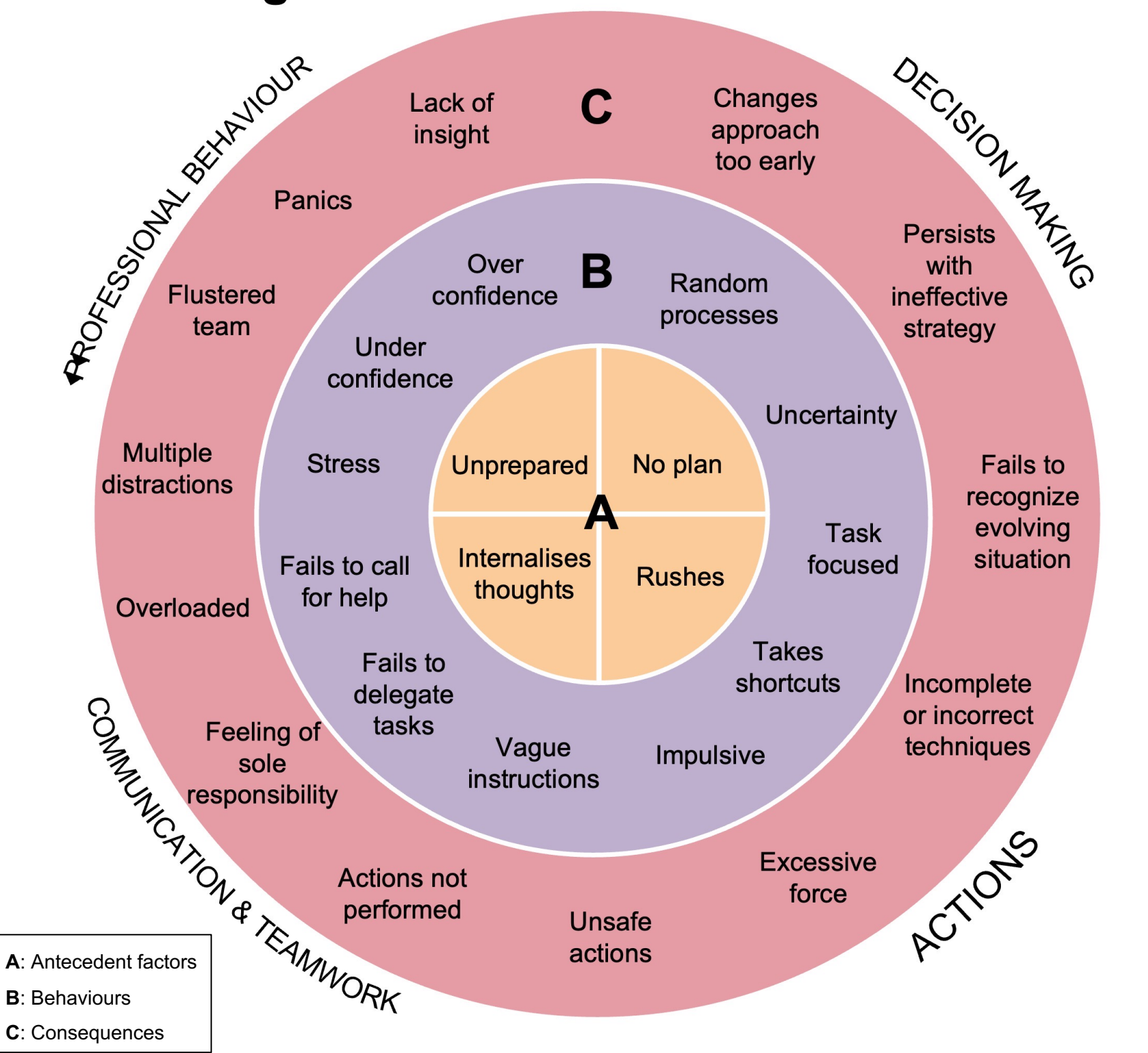
RESULTS

Themes	Sub-themes
Multi-professional teamwork	- Team emergency - Roles and responsibilities
Anticipation and preparation	- Anticipate if risk factors present - Prepare the team - Plan - Mentally rehearse
Communication and shared understanding	- Diagnosis of IFH - Declaring the emergency - Calling for help and escalating concerns - Explain actions to facilitate shared understanding - Precise language and clearly worded instructions - Closed-loop communication - Explain situation to woman and birth partner
Professional behaviour	- Confidence - Composure - Patience - Situation awareness - Calm environment
Decision-making	- Choice of technique - Change of approach - Evaluating and mitigating risks

Good management



Poor management



CONCLUSIONS

- Impacted fetal head is a complex, dynamic situation
- This study is the first to describe the critical non-technical skills required to safely manage impacted fetal head
- Management requires multi-professional teamworking, clear communication, quick and considered decision-making, and situation awareness
- Findings have been used to inform management algorithms and multi-professional training as part of PROMPT and the Avoiding Brain injuries in Childbirth programme