**Step 1:** Extraction of key recommendations from the national SWAB guideline for antimicrobial therapy of hospitalized adult patients with sepsis. \(n = 40\)

**n = 40 potential QIs:**
- \(n = 25\) QIs on empirical therapy
- \(n = 9\) QIs on modifying antimicrobial therapy/dose
- \(n = 3\) QIs on monitoring antimicrobial therapy
- \(n = 2\) QIs when to stop antimicrobial therapy
- \(n = 1\) QI on iv-oral switching

**Step 2:** first questionnaire round (start \(n = 40\)):
- 22 accepted\(^a\),
- 9 discussion\(^b\), 1 new proposed potential QI

**Step 3:** expert panel meeting (start \(n = 32\)):
- 13 accepted, 2 rephrased, 17 were ‘rejected’ and merged\(^d\) into 4 new composite QIs,
- 1 new potential QIs was added\(^e\)

**Step 4:** second questionnaire (start \(n = 20\)):
- Ranking procedure to prioritize
- 6 QIs received the most points (2 QIs were merged into 1 QI after comments from the experts)

**Step 5:** Final set of 5 potential QIs