Definition of the research objective

Selection of experts

To achieve consensus on how to select outcome measurement instruments for outcomes included in a COS

A ‘snowball sampling’ approach will be used to select panelists

First round

Rating the importance on each question in the questionnaire

Questionnaires will be emailed to all panelists who will be asked to rate the importance on given questions on potentially relevant tasks in selecting outcome measurement instruments for COS

Second round

Re-rating of questions on which no consensus was achieved in the first round

Panelists will be asked to review their initial responses in view of the groups’ response on tasks were no consensus was achieved in the first round

Analysis

Results of the ratings will be analyzed for agreement and consensus

If consensus is being achieved, the process may cease; in case of disagreement the second round will be repeated (third round)

Analysis

Results of the re-ratings will be analyzed for agreement and consensus

The identified tasks will ultimately be included in a guideline on outcome measurement instrument selection for outcomes included in a COS

Third round

Literature review

Development of the Delphi questionnaire

To identify potentially relevant tasks that could be included in the guideline on instrument selection for COS

Based on findings in the literature questions will be formulated

The identified tasks will ultimately be included in a guideline on outcome measurement instrument selection for outcomes included in a COS