

First validated set of quality indicators to mitigate risks associated with pharmacological therapy of chronic non-cancer pain in older patients.

R-TTT-40

Developing quality indicators for the pharmacological management of chronic non-cancer pain in older patients: a RAND/UCLA Delphi study

Aljoscha N. Goetschi, Nicole Schönenberger, Ursina Wernli, Carla Meyer-Massetti



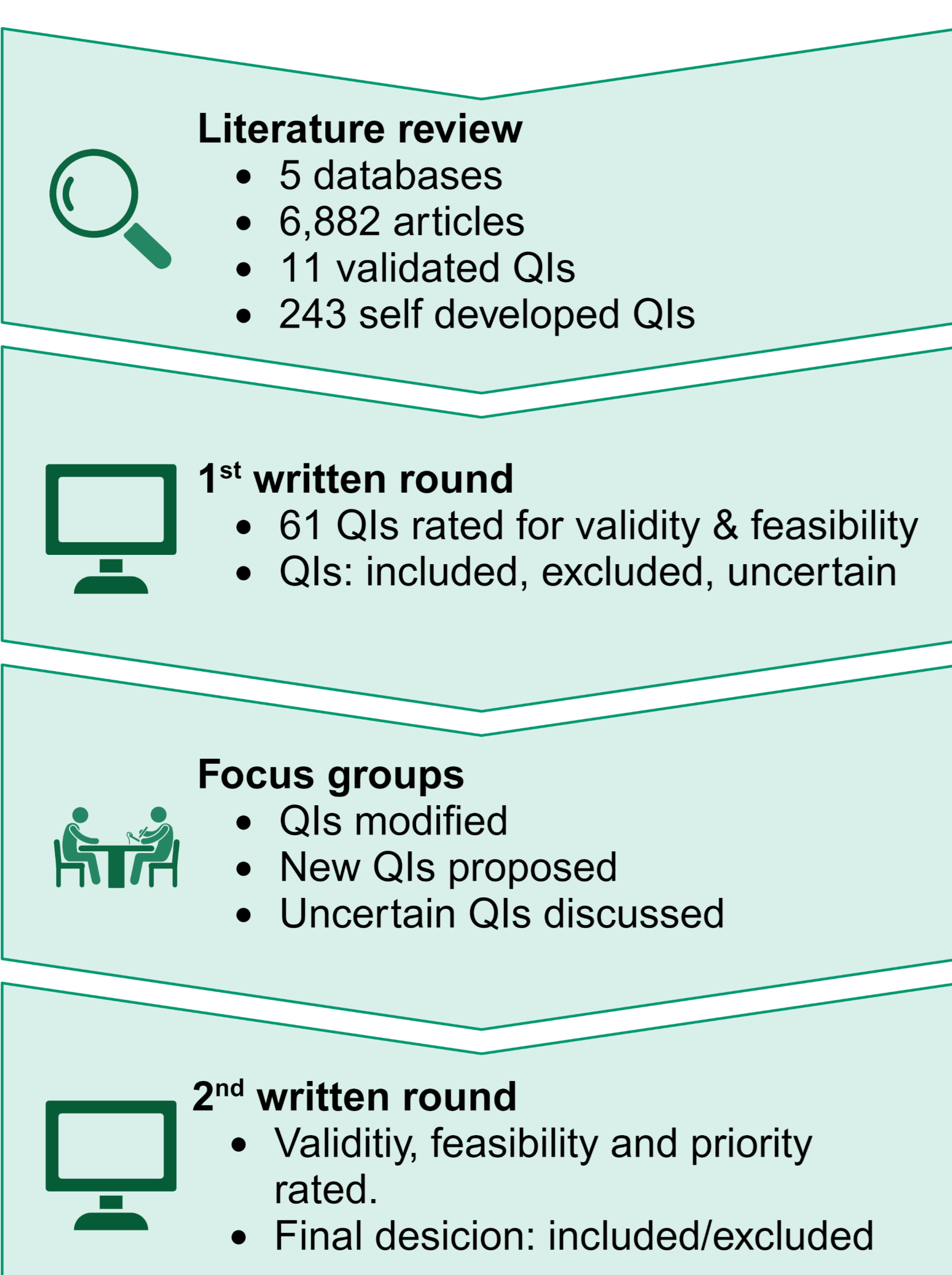
Introduction

- Chronic non-cancer pain (CNCP) affects many older patients and **reduces their quality of life**.^{1,2}
- Older patients with CNCP are exposed to more **medication-related problems**.³
- Quality indicators (QIs) are a valid tool to assess **quality of care** and **prioritise patients for interventions**.⁴

Objective

Achieve expert consensus on **validity & feasibility** of a list of previously developed QIs for the **pharmacological management** of CNCP.

Methods



Created with BioRender.com

Results



22 experts agreed to participate:

- 19** returned ratings for the written rounds,
- 9** additionally participated in the focus groups.



Experts were **11 pharmacists, 6 physicians and 5 nurses**.



Experts were from **Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Qatar**.



51 QIs were **included**, with **23** receiving a **priority rating**:

- General drug therapy: **10 QIs**
- Opioids: **18 QIs**
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs): **11 QIs**
- Co-analgesics: **6 QIs**
- Paracetamol: **3 QIs**
- Metamizole: **3 QIs**



Define care goals with the patient that focus on **quality of life** and **functionality**.



Starting or changing **opioid** therapy: **efficacy** and **adverse effects** should be closely monitored and evaluated at least **1 week** after starting/changing therapy.



Paracetamol: avoid daily doses higher than **3 g**.

Discussion & Outlook

First validated set of QIs to

- Track** and **compare** the delivered quality of care
- Prioritise patients** for intervention
- Guide** clinicians in a field with lacking evidence

→ Next steps:

Clinical applicability, patient input & effect of QIs

Scan me to access the full QI set!



Contact
Aljoscha Goetschi
aljoscha.goetschi@insel.ch

INSELSPITAL

UNIVERSITÄTSSPITAL BERN
BERN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

References

- Helme RD et al., Clin Ger Med, 2001
- Breivik H et al., Eur J Pain, 2006
- Goetschi AN et al., Eur J Pain, 2024
- Campbell SM et al., Qual Saf Health Care, 2002