2022 SUMMER NEWSLETTER
Development of the PRISMA-COSMIN reporting guideline

Dear PRISMA-COSMIN advisors and collaborators,

Greetings from Toronto! We hope this newsletter finds you well, and you are enjoying the summer thus far. As we are almost halfway in the project, we'd like to share the team's accomplishments to date, and inform you about upcoming phases of the project. Please, consider this a 2-way street: we are very happy to hear from you if this newsletter raises any questions or concerns, or if you would like to share your thoughts or ideas. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter!

- *The PRISMA-COSMIN Steering Committee: Ellen Elsman, Nancy Butcher, Caroline Terwee, Wieneke Mokkink, Maureen Smith, Joel Gagnier, Andrea Tricco, David Moher & Martin Offringa*

Creating the draft reporting item list (October 2021 – March 2022)

Originally, we had planned to conduct a scoping review to inform the draft reporting item list. However, due to limited funding of the project (only 60% of the requested budget was granted by CIHR), this was no longer feasible. Instead, the draft reporting item list that we brought forward in the Delphi study was created following three subsequent steps, as outlined below:

The study protocol outlining the methods for developing, piloting, and disseminating the PRISMA-COSMIN guideline has been published open access in the journal 'Systematic Reviews'. Click here to read the paper!

Environmental literature scan
- Documents from leading organizations
- Other reporting guidelines
- Recent reporting guideline projects' literature search results
- Scientific papers about reporting of outcome measurement instruments

Comparison to three systematic reviews
1. A systematic review of all PROMs measuring a construct in a population
2. A systematic review of one specific PROM
3. A systematic review of an outcome measurement instrument other than a PROM

Expert opinion seeking
- Steering committee members
- Technical advisory group

Delphi study (April – September 2022)

In total, 246 individuals were invited to participate in the Delphi study. Invitees included members of the technical advisory group, knowledge user group, authors from other reporting guidelines, editors of relevant journals, and individuals who had co-authored at least three systematic reviews of outcome measurement instruments. Of these, 81 registered for the Delphi study (response rate 33%), and another 38 individuals registered after being referred by a colleague. Thus, 119 individuals registered for the Delphi study, although 1 person withdrew after registration. The first round was completed by 103 panelists (response rate 87%). The second round was completed by 78 panelists (response rate 66%). The lower response rate might have been caused by the summer holidays. Round 3 of the Delphi study will be launched shortly, and we hope that we will achieve a high response rate for the third and final Delphi round!

Introducing Dr. Ellen Elsman, postdoctoral research fellow

Ellen Elsman was born and raised in the Netherlands. In Amsterdam, she conducted her PhD, in which she developed and validated patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) to assess limitations in activities and participation of children and young adults with visual impairment. After her PhD, Ellen continued working at the Department of Ophthalmology on several projects, all related to the use, validation, and implementation of PROMs. She then worked as a postdoctoral researcher with Drs. Caroline Terwee and Wieneke Mokkink on various projects related to PROMIS instruments and COSMIN methodology and tools. In October 2021, Ellen started as a postdoctoral research fellow on the PRISMA-COSMIN reporting guideline project. A move to Toronto followed in April 2022, where she will stay for at least one year to finalize this project.

PPI – The involvement of patient/public contributors

The conclusions of systematic reviews of outcome measurement instruments – informing the choice whether to use or not to use an outcome measurement instrument – have a direct impact on patients and members of the public. They are the direct end-users of the results of these systematic reviews, and their opinion on **what is relevant to report** and **how to report it** is important. We therefore closely collaborate with Maureen Smith, who is part of the steering committee as a patient/public partner and has expertise in patient/public engagement. Additionally, we included 5 patient/public contributors who were willing to participate in the Delphi study. After they were onboarded with an online training session, they all contributed to the Delphi rounds. The response rates of the patient/public contributors have been great! No one dropped out and everyone completed the Delphi surveys without needing a single reminder. As involving patient/public contributors in the development of a reporting guideline is relatively novel, especially for a methodological reporting guideline like PRISMA-COSMIN, we evaluate aspects of patient/public engagement at several stages in the project. We are learning about barriers and facilitators encountered. The lessons learned will be shared to help future guideline developers.

Name of the guideline

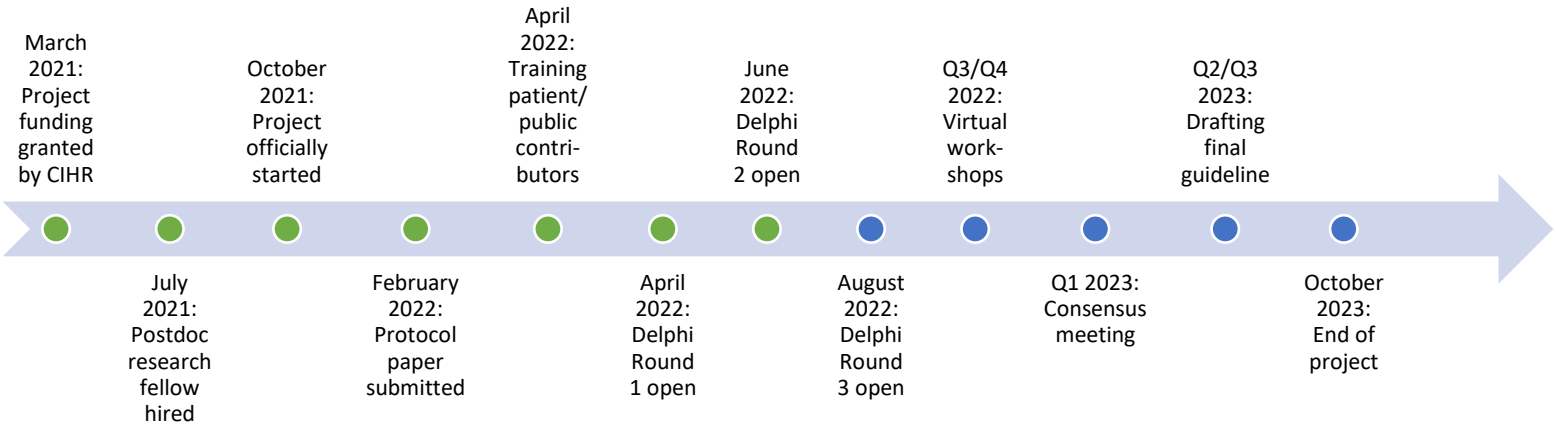
We are still deliberating what the final name of the guideline should be – to facilitate maximum uptake. In Delphi Round 3, panelists will be asked for their opinion. For now, we refer to the guideline with the name of the project: PRISMA-COSMIN.

Scope of the guideline

The guideline is intended for reporting systematic reviews of outcome measurement instruments in which at least one measurement property of at least one instrument is appraised, including risk of bias assessment of studies, evidence synthesis, and certainty assessment. These systematic reviews support decision-making on the suitability of an outcome measurement instrument.

Consensus Meeting 2023

A consensus meeting will be organized to obtain expert consensus on which items will be included in the final PRISMA-COSMIN guideline. Besides the steering committee and technical advisory group, we aim to invite ~15 persons. In Delphi Round 3, panelists will be asked to express their interest in joining the consensus meeting.



Overview of the next 6 months

1. **Virtual workshops (Q3/4 2022)**
   A series of virtual workshops will be organized with members of the steering committee and technical advisory group. In these virtual workshops, select reporting topics will be discussed. Examples include:
   - How to arrive at recommendations for the use of outcome measurement instruments
   - How to present the summary of findings of a systematic review of outcome measurement instruments
   - How to graphically present the results in a systematic review of outcome measurement instruments

Ellen has given a presentation 'How to select an outcome measurement that that is fit for purpose' at the StaR Forum in June 2022. Click here to watch the presentation.

2. **Draft guideline and user manual (Q3/Q4 2022)**
   With the input from the Delphi study and virtual workshops, the steering committee will develop a draft PRISMA-COSMIN reporting guideline, along with a draft user manual. The user manual contains background information, rationale, and justification for each reporting item.
3. **Piloting the guideline and user manual (Q4 2022/Q1/Q2 2023)**
   Each subsequent version of the PRISMA-COSMIN guideline and user manual will be pilot tested by researchers and clinicians in various disease areas. They will apply the COSMIN guideline to systematic reviews of outcome measurement instruments in their field, report on the relevance and comprehensibility of each reporting item, and report on the comprehensiveness of the total guideline. They will also provide feedback on the usability and user-satisfaction of the PRISMA-COSMIN guideline. We welcome individuals who are willing to pilot the guideline and user manual.

Quality of systematic reviews of outcome measurement instruments

We are conducting a second project in which we want to update two previous studies on the quality of systematic reviews of outcome measurement instruments, conducted by Wieneke Mokkink et al. in 2009 and Caroline Terwee et al. in 2016. We are interested to find out if the quality of these reviews has been improved over time and identify main areas for further improvement. We aim to include and rate the quality of 100 recent systematic reviews and make a comparison on quality aspects with the two previous studies. This study will highlight key messages regarding to the need for uniform conduct and reporting of systematic reviews of outcome measurement instruments. As a result, this study will speak to the need for the PRISMA-COSMIN reporting guideline. The protocol of this study can be accessed here.