

SWAT 75: Effects of different types of feedback presentation in an online Delphi study

Objective of this SWAT

To explore how feedback presentation influences ranking choices in a Delphi study.

Study area: Decision analysis, Outcomes

Sample type: Participants

Estimated funding level needed: Medium

Background

The Protocol Lab for Online Trials-Delphi (PLOT-D) module will use a multi-round online Delphi study [1] combined with participatory action research [2] to inform the development of a multi-use protocol template for use in writing protocols for self-recruited online trials of interventional self-management. The research aims to provide support for citizens to work alongside researchers to build participatory health trials that will use the internet for a health or wellness intervention. The Delphi study will include this embedded randomized trial to test how and if stakeholders adapt their views based on the contributions of others inside or outside the groups with which they are familiar.

Participants in the Delphi study are categorised into five stakeholder panels: a) researchers (health science students, academics, and journal editors), b) clinicians (doctors and allied health professionals, medical students), c) community (patients, other students and other groups), d) industry (medical devices, commercial research, commercial funders, pharmaceutical companies, health media), e) Policy (policy makers, health commissioners, and non-commercial funders). The SWAT will investigate how working with all stakeholder feedback (integrative feedback), within a peer group only (role specific feedback) or with the knowledge of what responses each peer group provided (consecutive feedback) influences prioritization and decision-making.

Interventions and comparators

Intervention 1: Delphi participants are given integrated Delphi feedback from all participants combined, not separated by stakeholder group.

Intervention 2: Delphi participants are given the feedback from their stakeholder group alone.

Intervention 3: Delphi participants are given the feedback from each stakeholder group.

Index Type: Participant Information

Method for allocating to intervention or comparator

Randomisation

Outcome measures

Primary: The top three disparities and similarities in the final ranking between participants randomised to each type of feedback presentation.

Secondary: Differences and similarities between stakeholder groups.

Analysis plans

There will be no weighting of items or propensity scores to adjust for a non-representative sample, as the goal is to involve all stakeholders and let them decide what is relevant through prioritization of the items over three separate time periods. The scoring will be reported and analyzed by stakeholder group separately and in combination. In this way, prioritization choices will be visible across groups, and the perspectives of smaller stakeholder groups can be preserved. The top three disparities and similarities in ranking between stakeholder groups will also be identified to report common ground and potential barriers for later problem-solving.

Possible problems in implementing this SWAT

Variation in the size of stakeholder groups and missing data. Stakeholder responses will be represented numerically and by percentage. For the groups that are too small to be relevant they will be added to Intervention-1.

References

1. Sinha IP, Smyth RL, Williamson PR. Using the Delphi technique to determine which outcomes to measure in clinical trials: recommendations for the future based on a systematic review of existing studies. PLoS Medicine 2011;8:e1000393.
2. Fletcher AJ, Marchildon GP. Using the Delphi method for qualitative, participatory action research in health leadership. International Journal of Qualitative Methods 2014;13:1-18.

Publications or presentations of this SWAT design**Examples of the implementation of this SWAT**

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Revisions made by:

Date of revisions: