Supplemental Digital Content 1. Text, Description of the Delphi method

The Delphi Method

In general, the modified Delphi method process starts with the selection of a group of experts based on the topic being examined - referred to as the Delphi panel. Once all panellists are identified and confirmed, each is sent a survey with instructions to comment on each topic based on their personal opinion, experience, or previous research. They are then asked to return the surveys to the facilitator/researcher who groups the comments and prepares copies of the information. The desired agreement level for the expert panel is determined a-priori and the facilitators determine if agreement has been reached, or if the content needs to be modified and resent for further deliberation by the panel. This is known as a Delphi round, and these rounds are repeated as many times as necessary to achieve the desired level of agreement or consensus.15-17