Stakeholder Perspectives during Development of a Patient-Reported Outcome Measure for Inpatient Postpartum Pain: A Qualitative Study

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INTRODUCTION

- Development of a new patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) requires input from patients and clinical experts.
- Stakeholder groups may prioritize different pain domains and identify different wording concerns.
- Differences among stakeholders remain underexplored for postpartum pain PROM development.

OBJECTIVE

To identify differences in feedback among postpartum patients, obstetricians, pain specialists, pain psychologists, and nurses/midwives during development of an inpatient postpartum pain PROM.

METHODS

1. Secondary analysis of a prospective mixed-methods study
2. 35 stakeholders reviewed a 15-item pilot PROM (Figure 1)
3. Participants rated each item and response option on a 10-point scale and provided qualitative feedback
4. Two reviewers independently coded comments using inductive thematic analysis
5. Discrepancies were resolved by consensus; duplicate comments from one participant within a theme were consolidated

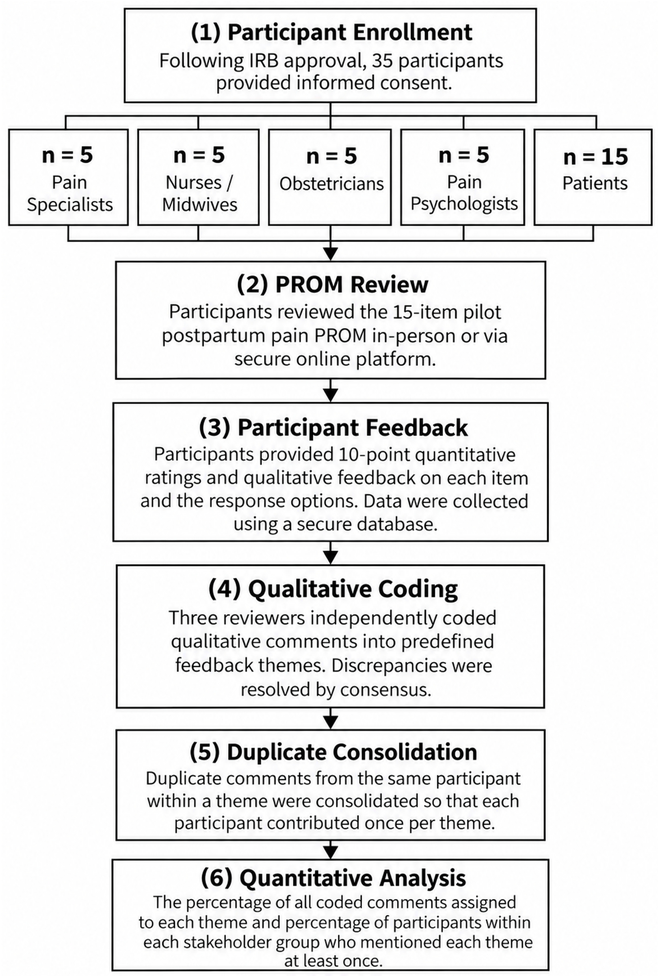


Figure 1: Participant enrollment, feedback collection, and analysis workflow

RESULTS

WHAT STAKEHOLDERS EMPHASIZED

PATIENTS
- Evaluated items in the context of postpartum activities, including holding and feeding their baby.

CLINICAL EXPERTS
- Focused on precision, interpretation, and redundancy
- Flagged pain-location wording, the 24-hour recall period, and imprecise terminology

MEAN QUANTITATIVE RATINGS
Scale 1–10
1 = very bad ; 10 = very good

QUESTIONS
8.6

ANSWERS
8.8

Table 3: Stakeholder Feedback Summary

Theme	Pain Specialists (n=5)	Nurses/Midwives (n=5)	Obstetricians (n=5)	Pain Psychologists (n=5)	Patients (n=15)	Total (n=35)
Wording Issue	5 (100%)	5 (100%)	5 (100%)	5 (100%)	15 (100%)	**35 (100%)**
Formatting	4 (80%)	1 (20%)	5 (100%)	4 (80%)	8 (53%)	**22 (63%)**
Not Relevant	0 (0%)	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	2 (40%)	3 (20%)	**7 (20%)**
Other	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	11 (73%)	**15 (43%)**
Positive feedback	2 (40%)	1 (20%)	3 (60%)	3 (60%)	13 (87%)	**22 (63%)**
Answer Issue	5 (100%)	3 (60%)	4 (80%)	5 (100%)	14 (93%)	**31 (89%)**
Repeated Question	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	2 (40%)	3 (20%)	**6 (17%)**
Missing Content	3 (60%)	2 (40%)	1 (20%)	4 (80%)	3 (20%)	**13 (37%)**
Unclear Time Period	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	2 (40%)	1 (7%)	**5 (14%)**

Table 2: Proportion of participants identifying each feedback theme by stakeholder group

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Funded by the National Institutes of Health U54 Grant [#5U54HD113142]. Core Expert Group consisting of D. Panelli, L. Simons, R. Landau, S. Ciechanowicz, E. Sharpe, B. Carvalho, S. Osmundson, and study collaborators.

CONCLUSION

- ✓ Patients interpreted questions through their lived postpartum experiences.
- ✓ Clinical experts emphasized precision, interpretation, and redundancy.
- ✓ Qualitative feedback added context despite high quantitative ratings across groups.

IMPLICATIONS

- Stakeholder selection may influence the feedback obtained during PROM development.
- Having a range of feedback can reveal complementary concerns often missed by numeric rating scales.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Incorporate stakeholder feedback into the next version of the PROM
- Conduct cognitive debriefing with postpartum patients