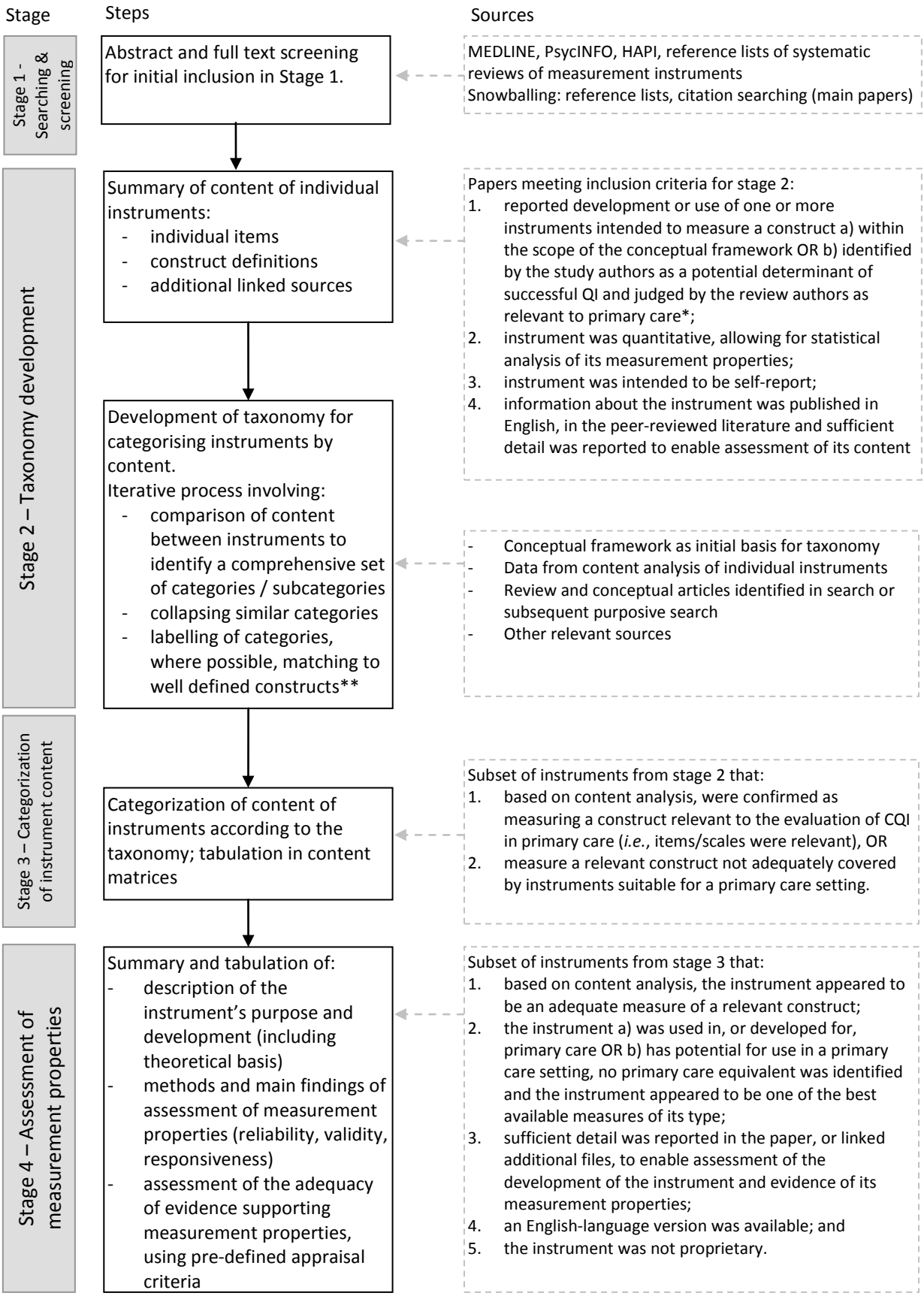
Stage
Steps
Sources
Stage 1 - Searching & screening
Abstract and full text screening for initial inclusion in Stage 1.
MEDLINE, PsycINFO, HAPI, reference lists of systematic reviews of measurement instruments
Snowballing: reference lists, citation searching (main papers)
Stage 2 – Taxonomy development
Summary of content of individual instruments:
- individual items
- construct definitions
- additional linked sources
Papers meeting inclusion criteria for stage 2:
1. reported development or use of one or more instruments intended to measure a construct a) within the scope of the conceptual framework OR b) identified by the study authors as a potential determinant of successful QI and judged by the review authors as relevant to primary care*;
2. instrument was quantitative, allowing for statistical analysis of its measurement properties;
3. instrument was intended to be self-report;
4. information about the instrument was published in English, in the peer-reviewed literature and sufficient detail was reported to enable assessment of its content
Development of taxonomy for categorising instruments by content.
Iterative process involving:
- comparison of content between instruments to identify a comprehensive set of categories / subcategories
- collapsing similar categories
- labelling of categories, where possible, matching to well defined constructs**
- Conceptual framework as initial basis for taxonomy
- Data from content analysis of individual instruments
- Review and conceptual articles identified in search or subsequent purposive search
- Other relevant sources
Stage 3 – Categorization of instrument content
Categorization of content of instruments according to the taxonomy; tabulation in content matrices
Subset of instruments from stage 2 that:
1. based on content analysis, were confirmed as measuring a construct relevant to the evaluation of CQI in primary care (i.e., items/scales were relevant), OR
2. measure a relevant construct not adequately covered by instruments suitable for a primary care setting.
Stage 4 – Assessment of measurement properties
Summary and tabulation of:
- description of the instrument's purpose and development (including theoretical basis)
- methods and main findings of assessment of measurement properties (reliability, validity, responsiveness)
- assessment of the adequacy of evidence supporting measurement properties, using pre-defined appraisal criteria
Subset of instruments from stage 3 that:
1. based on content analysis, the instrument appeared to be an adequate measure of a relevant construct;
2. the instrument a) was used in, or developed for, primary care OR b) has potential for use in a primary care setting, no primary care equivalent was identified and the instrument appeared to be one of the best available measures of its type;
3. sufficient detail was reported in the paper, or linked additional files, to enable assessment of the development of the instrument and evidence of its measurement properties;
4. an English-language version was available; and
5. the instrument was not proprietary.