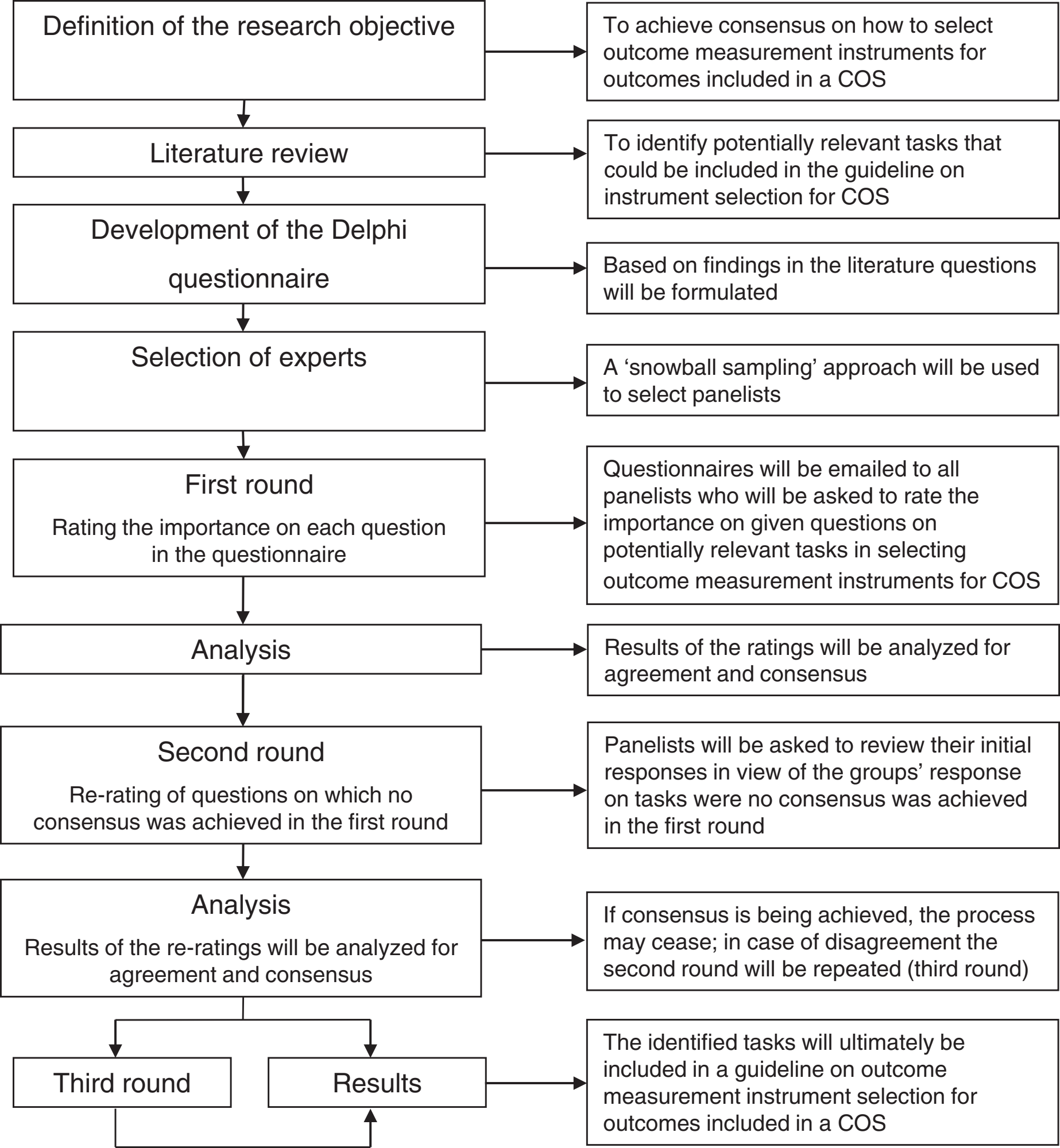
Definition of the research objective
To achieve consensus on how to select outcome measurement instruments for outcomes included in a COS
Literature review
To identify potentially relevant tasks that could be included in the guideline on instrument selection for COS
Development of the Delphi questionnaire
Based on findings in the literature questions will be formulated
Selection of experts
A 'snowball sampling' approach will be used to select panelists
First round
Rating the importance on each question in the questionnaire
Questionnaires will be emailed to all panelists who will be asked to rate the importance on given questions on potentially relevant tasks in selecting outcome measurement instruments for COS
Analysis
Results of the ratings will be analyzed for agreement and consensus
Second round
Re-rating of questions on which no consensus was achieved in the first round
Panelists will be asked to review their initial responses in view of the groups' response on tasks were no consensus was achieved in the first round
Analysis
Results of the re-ratings will be analyzed for agreement and consensus
If consensus is being achieved, the process may cease; in case of disagreement the second round will be repeated (third round)
Third round
Results
The identified tasks will ultimately be included in a guideline on outcome measurement instrument selection for outcomes included in a COS