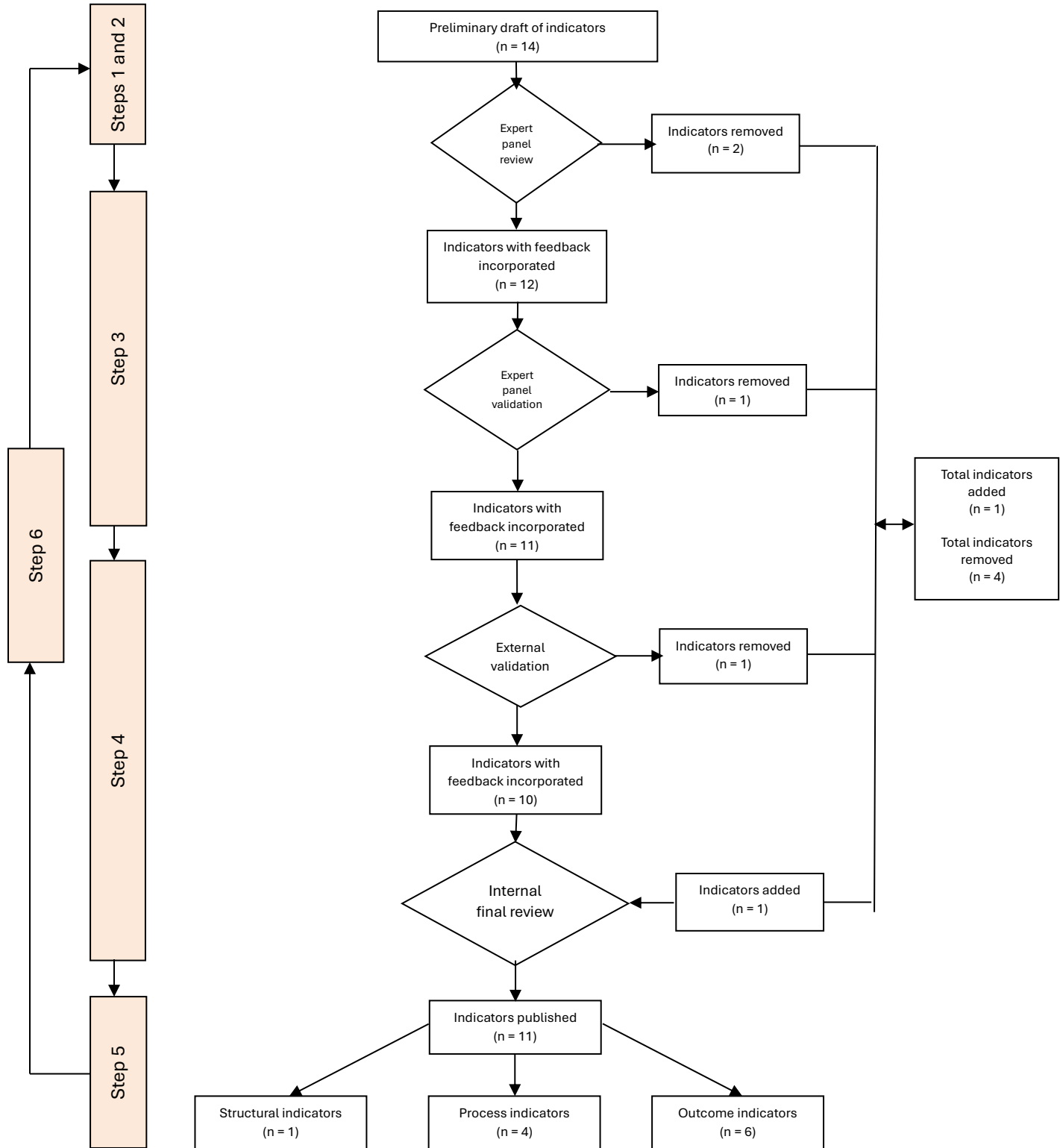**Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario**
Pain: Prevention, assessment and management
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Indicator selection process

The following is a summary of the RNAO indicator selection process (see Figure 1).

1. **Guideline selection:** Indicators are selected for guidelines focused on health system priorities, with an emphasis on filling gaps in measurement while reducing reporting burden.

2. **Extraction of recommendations:** Good practice statements, recommendations, outcomes of the research question and BPG Order Sets™ (if applicable) are reviewed to extract potential measures for indicator development.

3. **Indicator selection and development:** Indicators are selected and developed through established methodology, including alignment with external organizations.

4. **Practice test and validation:** Proposed indicators are internally validated through face and content validity and externally validated by expert panel members and external reviewers who concurrently reviewed the drafted BPG.

5. **Implementation:** Indicators are published in the BPG Evaluation section, and data dictionaries are developed for publication on the Nursing Quality Indicators for Reporting and Evaluation® (NQuIRE®) website for use by BPSOs.

6. **Data quality assessment and evaluation:** Data quality assessment and evaluation, as well as ongoing feedback from BPSOs, ensure purposeful evolution of BPG indicators collected in NQuIRE.

Figure 1: Indicator selection flow diagram

Steps 1 and 2

Step 3

Step 4

Step 5

Step 6

Preliminary draft of indicators
(n = 14)

Expert panel review → Indicators removed (n = 2)

Indicators with feedback incorporated
(n = 12)

Expert panel validation → Indicators removed (n = 1)

Indicators with feedback incorporated
(n = 11)

External validation → Indicators removed (n = 1)

Indicators with feedback incorporated
(n = 10)

Internal final review ← Indicators added (n = 1)

Total indicators added
(n = 1)

Total indicators removed
(n = 4)

Indicators published
(n = 11)

Structural indicators
(n = 1)

Process indicators
(n = 4)

Outcome indicators
(n = 6)

Source: Adapted by the RNAO expert panel from: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. BMJ [Internet]. 2021;372:n71. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n71