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Introduction

Hospice admissions require understanding complex patient needs before, during, and after admission. Using the Complex Adaptive Systems framework, the HOOP instrument was developed through a two-phase qualitative process (focus groups and item prioritization) to support admission decisions. The next step is to evaluate its content validity.

Aim

To optimise the relevance, comprehensiveness and comprehensibility of the HOOP-instrument.

Method

A participatory action research study was conducted from November 2024 to June 2025 in six hospices across three eight-week cycles, following a plan–do–evaluate–adapt approach. In two-hour sessions, staff and researchers reviewed experiences, proposed adjustments, and implemented agreed actions.

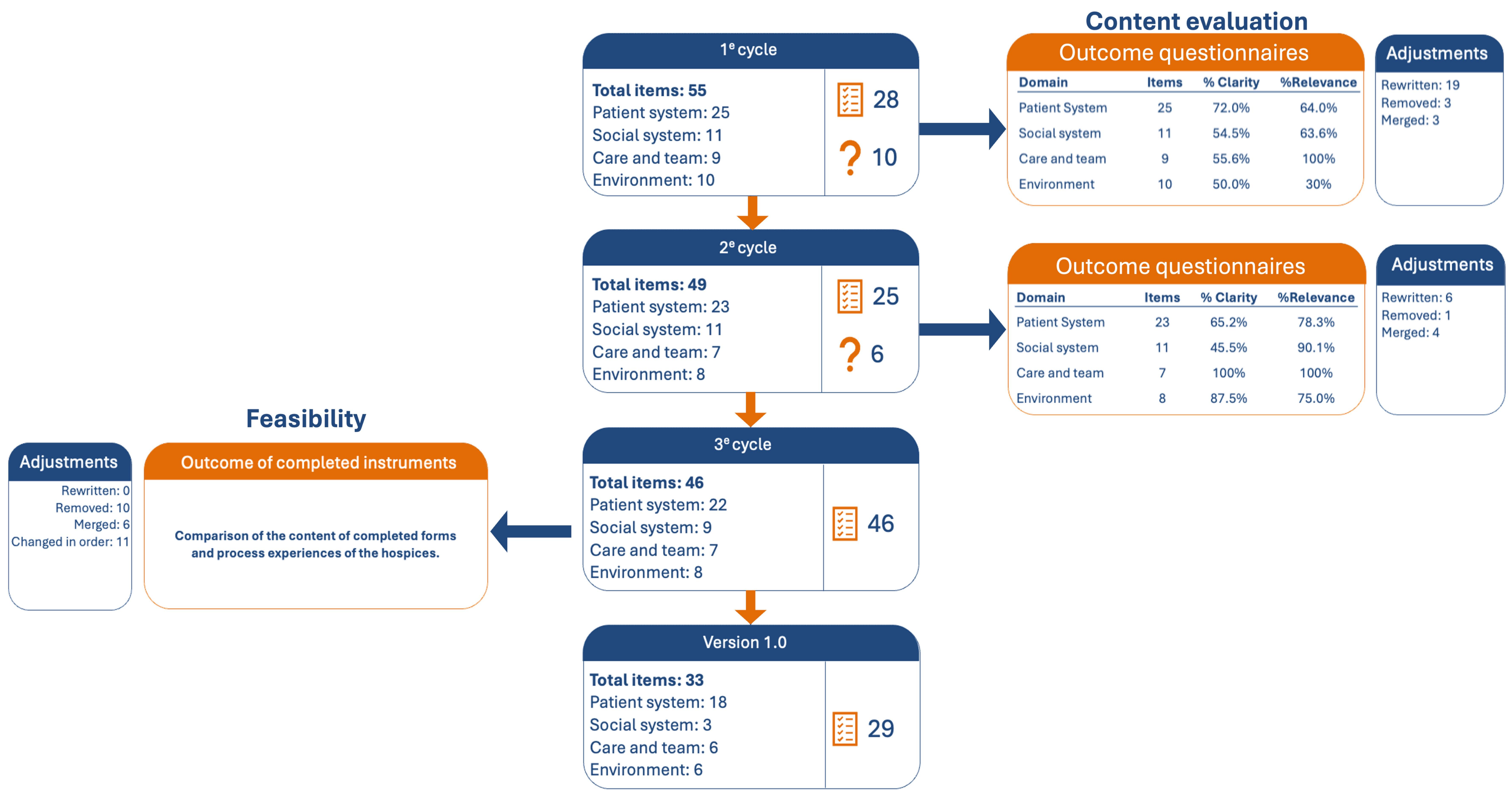
- Cycle one assessed item clarity and relevance in the referral phase.
- Cycle two examined item suitability in both referral and admission.
- Cycle three focused on the overall admission process and item sequencing.

After each cycle, the team reviewed completed instruments for consistency in staff interpretation; questionnaires were additionally reviewed in the first two cycles.



The admission tool guides assessments and communication throughout the admission process and supports appropriate hospice care.

Results



Conclusion

The participatory revision enhanced the comprehensiveness and consistency of the HOOP-instrument. The next step is to integrate it into hospice admission processes to evaluate its effectiveness. Larger-scale action research is needed to explore its performance in diverse hospice contexts.