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A Q-methodology approach for understanding factors that influence the drug choice of prescribers

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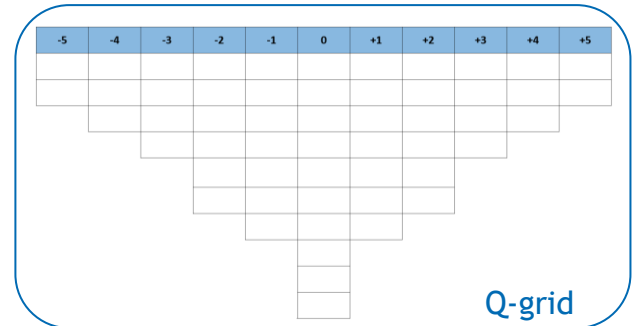2) Research and Expertise Centre in Pharmacotherapy Education (RECIPE), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
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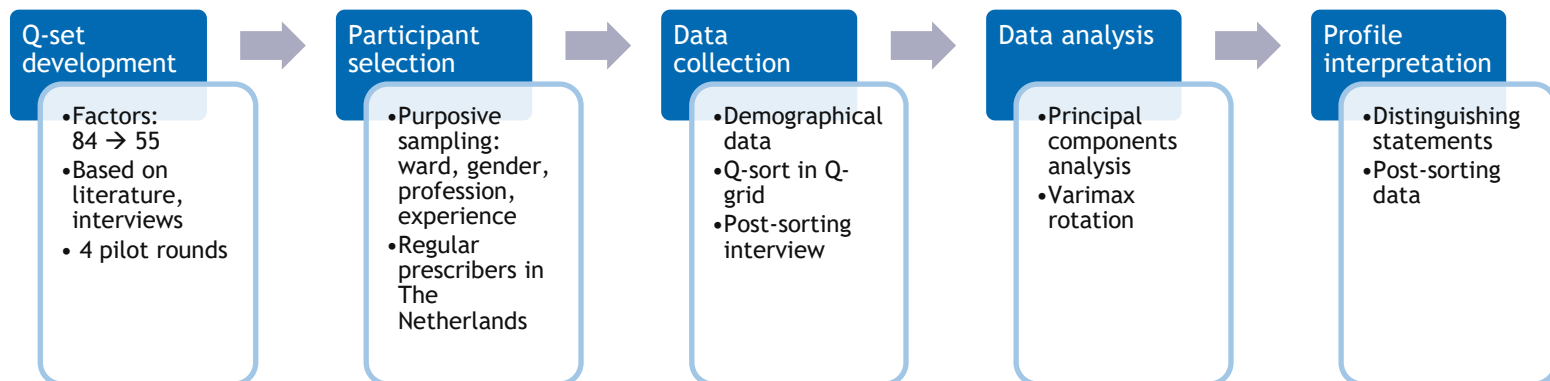4) Amsterdam UMC, Research in Education, Faculty of Medicine, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands;

Introduction

- Many factors are involved in drug choice
- Aim: to see what factors prescribers consider important in therapeutic decision-making and if and how this differs between prescribers
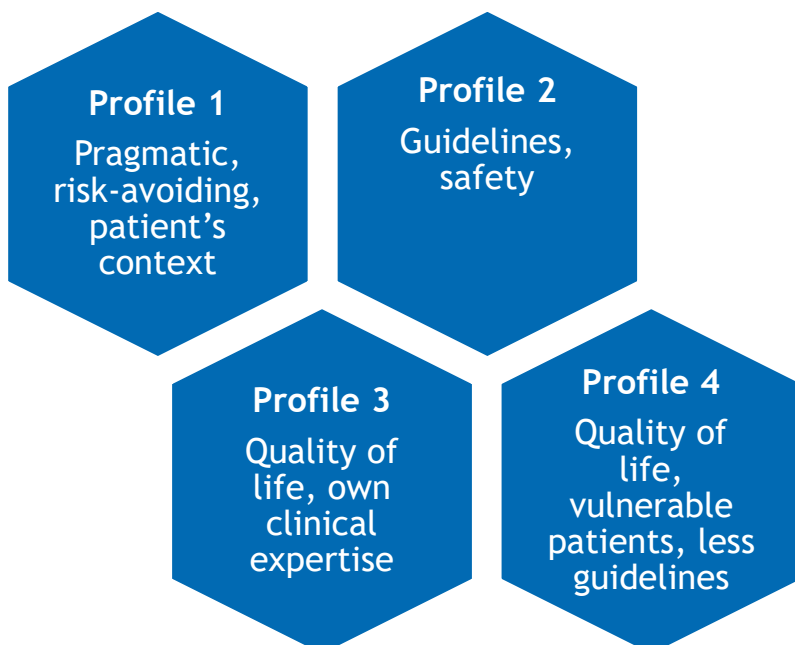- In order to improve education and daily practice

Q-grid

Methods

Q-set development	Participant selection	Data collection	Data analysis	Profile interpretation
•Factors: 84 → 55 •Based on literature, interviews • 4 pilot rounds	•Purposive sampling: ward, gender, profession, experience •Regular prescribers in The Netherlands	•Demographical data •Q-sort in Q-grid •Post-sorting interview	•Principal components analysis •Varimax rotation	•Distinguishing statements •Post-sorting data

Results

- N = 37 → 16 Physicians, 8 Physician Assistants, 8 Advanced Nurse Practitioners, 4 Dentists, 1 Midwife
  - Experience: 0-33 years

Profile 1
Pragmatic, risk-avoiding, patient's context

Profile 2
Guidelines, safety

Profile 3
Quality of life, own clinical expertise

Profile 4
Quality of life, vulnerable patients, less guidelines

Conclusion and implications

- Four different profiles, two of which focus on quality of life
- Least important factors → often knowledge gaps or are not applicable
- In education, attention should be given to prescribers in all four profiles
- Follow-up study for generalizability is needed

Discussion

+ First study about ranking factors

+ Selection for a diverse range of viewpoints

+ Different professions and geographical spread

– Possible bias due to affinity with the subject

– Different amounts of prescribing among professions

Recipe
Research & Expertise Center In Pharmacotherapy Education