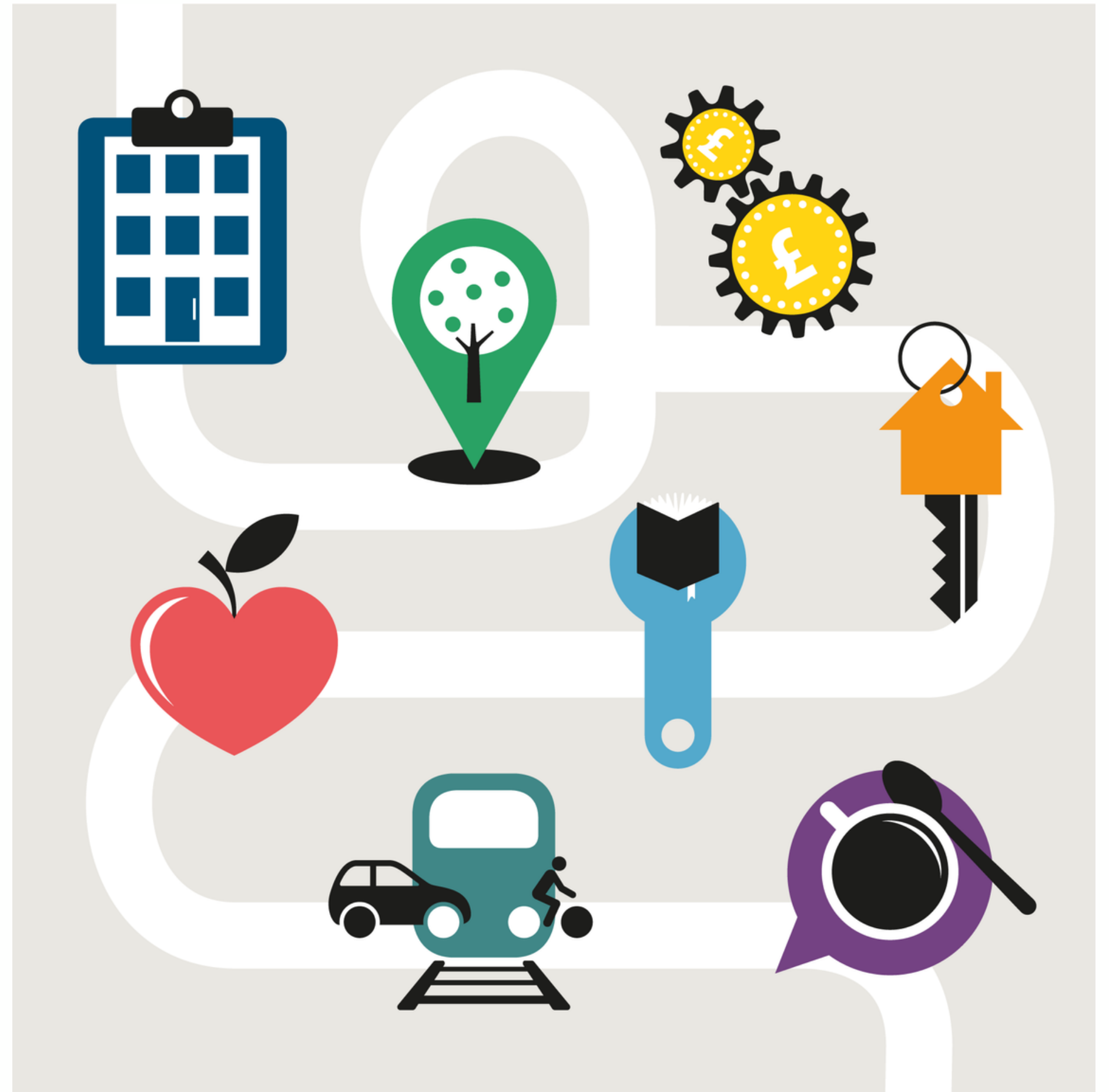




# Delphi Study

Important information  
before you begin

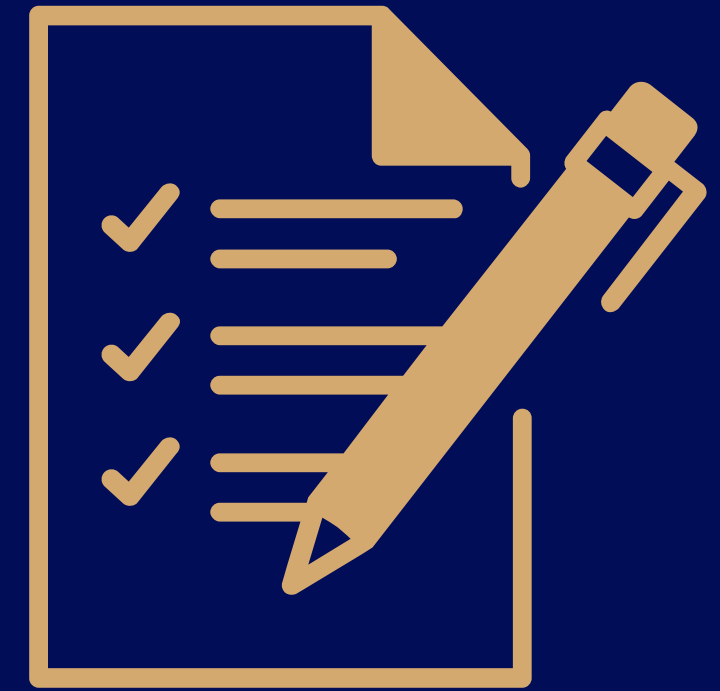


(Image from The Health Foundation with permission)

# Our aim:

to develop a *minimum dataset* to guide the routine collection and reporting of *equity-relevant data* in all human pain research

# What do we mean by a 'minimum dataset?'



The minimum dataset will:

- contain a 'small number' of data items (<10?)
- be recommended for routine use in ALL pain research

Some of the items in this dataset will collect data that is not commonly collected in pain research (e.g. race, ethnicity, gender identity). Some items will overlap or be very similar to more commonly collected data (e.g. age, educational level).

A standardised, 'minimum dataset' will ensure that the equity-relevant information considered **most** important is collected in a **consistent** manner in **all** studies.

# What do we mean by 'equity relevant data'?

## Equity relevant data

provides information about social factors that are known to give rise to differences in health status between individuals, groups, communities or populations. An important feature of equity-relevant differences is that they avoidable, unfair and unjust.

Social factors that contribute to health inequities are referred to as ***social determinants of health***.



# What is a Delphi study?



A group of experts answer a series of surveys anonymously. Responses to an initial round of questions are analysed and reported back to the participants, who re-consider their responses in the next round. This process is repeated one or more times until consensus (agreement) is reached about a particular topic. The goal is to gather insights and opinions from knowledgeable people and reach a collective agreement.

# In this Delphi study:

You will be presented with 'equity relevant items' and asked to rate **the importance of including each item in a minimum dataset** on a 9 point scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not important							Extremely important	

An **item** = a question and a set of response options - for participants in pain studies to select from.



# Round 1

You will be asked to rate the importance of including specific **QUESTIONS** in a minimum dataset. Response options to these questions will be provided as EXAMPLES only - you may not consider them to be ideal. We will invite your input into the response options in round 3.

**You will also be able to suggest new questions that you think are important to include.**

**The research team will analyse participant responses to Round 1, and any items that reach a high level of agreement (to include or not include) will be removed for Round 3.**

# Round 2

You will be provided with a summary of the results of Round 1 - both for the group of participants with a lived experience of persistent pain, AND for the group containing other experts and stakeholders. You will (again) rate the importance of including the **QUESTIONS**.

**Results will be analysed and items that reach agreement will be removed for Round 3.**



# Round 3

You will be given a summary of the results of the previous round, and a smaller number of items that have not reached agreement will be presented for rating.

In round 3 you will also be asked to provide comments and suggestions related to the **RESPONSE OPTIONS** and be given the opportunity to help us to refine the wording of the questions.

## Note:

It is very important for the results of our study that all participants complete **all 3 rounds** of the Delphi survey.





# The initial items

in this Delphi study come from:

- Scoping review (stage 1) - **Health care settings**
- Scoping review (stage 2) - **Health research**
- Other sources (consensus derived)
- Expert consultation

The items are organised according to:

## PROGRESS-Plus



# PROGRESS-Plus



**P**lace of residence



**R**ace/ethnicity/culture/language



**O**ccupation



**G**ender/sex



**R**eligion



**E**ducation



**S**ocioeconomic status



**S**ocial capital



**Plus**

E.g. personal characteristics associated with discrimination and/or exclusion (including age, disability, sexual preference)

# Things to consider when rating importance



1. Rate how important you think it is that the data collected by this item is **always** collected from participants in all pain studies.

**Remember:** Pain researchers will collect other (additional) data relevant to the particular interests of their study or their study population.

## 2. Consider the relevance of each item to chronic pain

- **Is this factor** likely to impact a person's pain experience, their healthcare experiences, and their opportunities for recovery?
- Is this factor likely to be important in explaining **avoidable, unfair and unjust** differences in peoples opportunities to lead lives unburdened by chronic pain?

# Important:

- *Remember:* there are no right or wrong answers!
- Do not take too long to answer each question - often your initial response is very close to your best response.
- We really appreciate your involvement and value your opinion.

Please watch the next video for an explanation of how we have classified equity relevant items using PROGRESS-Plus before you begin the Delphi survey.

