

Core Outcome Set for Burn Care Research (COSB)

Invitation to a survey for burn health professionals.

Why are we doing this research? There are different ways to treat patients after a burn. Research trials are used to assess which treatment/s work best based on the effect of an intervention. We want to know what outcomes to measure in these trials, by identifying which are the most important to patients, and staff working with patients with burns.

An outcome is a consequence of healthcare or a health condition. For example, how quickly a wound heals, the amount of pain a patient experiences, their length of stay in hospital or how much their injury affects their daily life. If different trials measure different outcomes, we cannot compare the trials and synthesise evidence. This means we are unable to combine trials to provide the highest quality evidence to support clinical decision-making.

The purpose of the COSB study is to agree a minimum set of the most important outcomes to be measured in all burn care trials. These won't prevent the reporting of other outcomes of interest to researchers.

What does the study involve? To do this we need your views about which outcomes are most important to measure after a burn injury. To be eligible to take part you should be a clinician who has spent at least 6 months caring for patients with burn injuries. We will be collecting information using a Delphi survey, made up of 2 rounds. The surveys ask you to rate how important you think it is to measure each possible outcome in research trials of burn care.

If you are happy to take part, please complete the consent part of the survey. You can then proceed to the first survey. A second survey will be sent to you by email in 6-12 weeks' time. For our results to accurately represent your views, it is very important that you complete both surveys. If people drop out between rounds, their opinions may not be represented in the final set of core outcomes. After the second survey we will be inviting all participants to a consensus meeting to discuss the results of the study.

We have found that completing this survey takes people about 20-25 minutes. Please try to read through and complete **all** questions as every outcome has the potential to be important so that we can identify the most effective and best treatments for patients with burn injuries. If there are any outcomes you think we may have missed, please add these in the space provided at the end of the questionnaire.

Who is conducting the research and who should I contact if I have a question? The study is led by Dr Amber Young, Senior Research Fellow, and Consultant Burn Anaesthetist, and Professor Jane Blazeby at the University of Bristol. If you have any queries about the study please contact Dr Young at COSBResearch@gmail.com.

All the information that is collected from you during the research will be kept strictly confidential. Information will be collected, stored and analysed only by study researchers at the University of Bristol and University Hospitals Bristol.

This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the South West Frenchay Research Ethics Committee.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE: The survey is split into two sections

Consent and information about you: Once you have completed this and given your signature, you will be able to proceed to the survey. Please check the appropriate boxes to give your responses.

Survey questions: Two sets of outcomes are presented:

1. A list of outcomes that happen **before** a burn has healed (i.e. when a patient is in hospital, or within a few weeks or months after the burn).
2. A list of outcomes that happen **after** the burn has healed (i.e. after the wound has healed or has scarred).

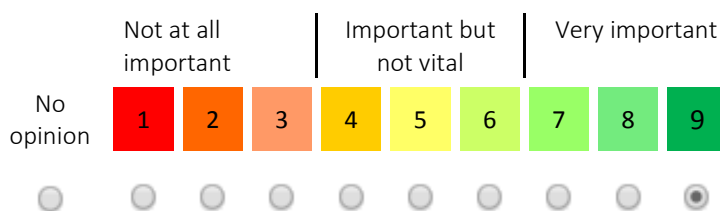
Please rate **for every question** how important you think it is that these outcomes are measured in research trials for patients with burns. Remember that you are being asked to rate these outcomes for all patients with burn injuries.

The order in which you receive the questions has been randomly decided and you should read the instructions at the start of each page to see which questions you are answering.

Please note that some outcomes are the same in both sections, as they could be important to patients and staff before or after burn healing.

How to rate the importance of each outcome:

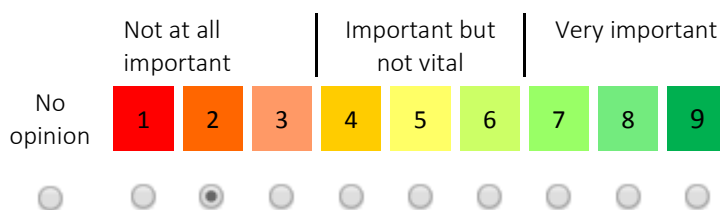
- If you think that any outcome is **very important** to measure in research trials, please select one of the circles under 'very important' (numbers 7-9).



- If you think the outcome is **quite important but not vital** to measure in research trials, please select one of the circles under 'important but not vital' (numbers 4-6).



- If you think the outcome is **not important** to measure in research trials, please select one of the circles under 'not at all important' (numbers 1-3).



- If you **don't have an opinion or don't know about** the outcome, please select the circle where it says 'no opinion'.