

RECODE-DCM (REsearch Objectives and Common Data Elements for **Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy**) aims to improve efficient use of **health care resources** within the field of **Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy** (DCM) by using a multi-stakeholder partnership to define the DCM research priorities, to develop a minimum dataset for DCM clinical studies, and confirm a definition of DCM.

This requires a multi-stakeholder partnership and multiple parallel consensus development processes. It will be conducted via 4 phases, adhering to the guidance set out by the **COMET** (Core Outcomes in Effectiveness Trials) and JLA (**James Lind Alliance**) initiatives. Phase 1 will consist of preliminary work to inform online **Delphi processes** (Phase 2) and a **consensus meeting** (Phase 3). Following the findings of the consensus meeting, a synthesis of relevant measurement instruments will be compiled and assessed as per the **COSMIN** (Consensus-based Standards for the Selection of Health Measurement Instruments) criteria, to allow recommendations to be made on how to measure agreed data points. Phase 4 will monitor and promote the use of eventual recommendations.

RECODE-DCM sets out to establish for the first time an index term, minimum dataset, and research priorities together. The aim is to reduce **waste** of health care resources in the future by using patient priorities to inform the scope of future DCM research activities. The consistent use of a standard dataset in DCM clinical studies, audit, and clinical surveillance will facilitate pooled analysis of future data and, ultimately, a deeper understanding of DCM ¹⁾.

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