

Appendix 1: Estimation Method for Sample Size Calculation

Table I: Estimation Method for Sample Size. The first row of numbers indicates the potential proportion of studies that use the terms “pilot” or “feasibility” in the title of their consent forms. The first column of numbers indicates the given margin of error which is half a confidence interval. The unbolded numbers in the middle of the table represent the minimum sample size required to meet the corresponding margin of error, assuming the corresponding proportion of studies that use the terms “pilot” or “feasibility” in the title of their consent forms, with a 95% confidence interval. For our protocol we assumed a proportion of 0.5 (or 50%) of studies used the terms “pilot” or “feasibility” in the title of their consent forms and a confidence interval of 0.43 to 0.57 (a margin of error equal to 0.07). Thus, according to the estimation method, our minimum sample size is 196 (in green). If fewer than 196 studies meet the inclusion criteria, then based on the same proportion and a 95% confidence interval of 0.4 to 0.6 (a margin of error of equal to 0.10,) a sample of 96 (also in green) will be sufficient to address the objectives of the study.

		Proportion of studies with the term “pilot” or “feasibility” in the title of consent forms (P)								
		0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9
Margin of error (E)	0.01	3457	6147	8067	9220	9604	9220	8067	6147	3457
	0.02	864	1537	2017	2305	2401	2305	2017	1537	864
	0.03	384	683	896	1025	1067	1024	896	683	384
	0.04	216	384	504	576	600	576	504	384	216

0.05	138	246	323	369	384	369	323	246	138
0.06	96	171	224	256	267	256	224	171	96
0.07	71	125	165	188	196	188	165	125	71
0.08	54	96	126	144	150	144	126	96	54
0.09	43	76	100	114	119	114	100	76	43
0.1	35	61	81	92	96	92	81	61	35

Formula used in the table: $N = 1.96^2 (p) (1 - p) / E^2$

Where P is the prior estimate of the proportion and E is the target margin of error for the estimate.