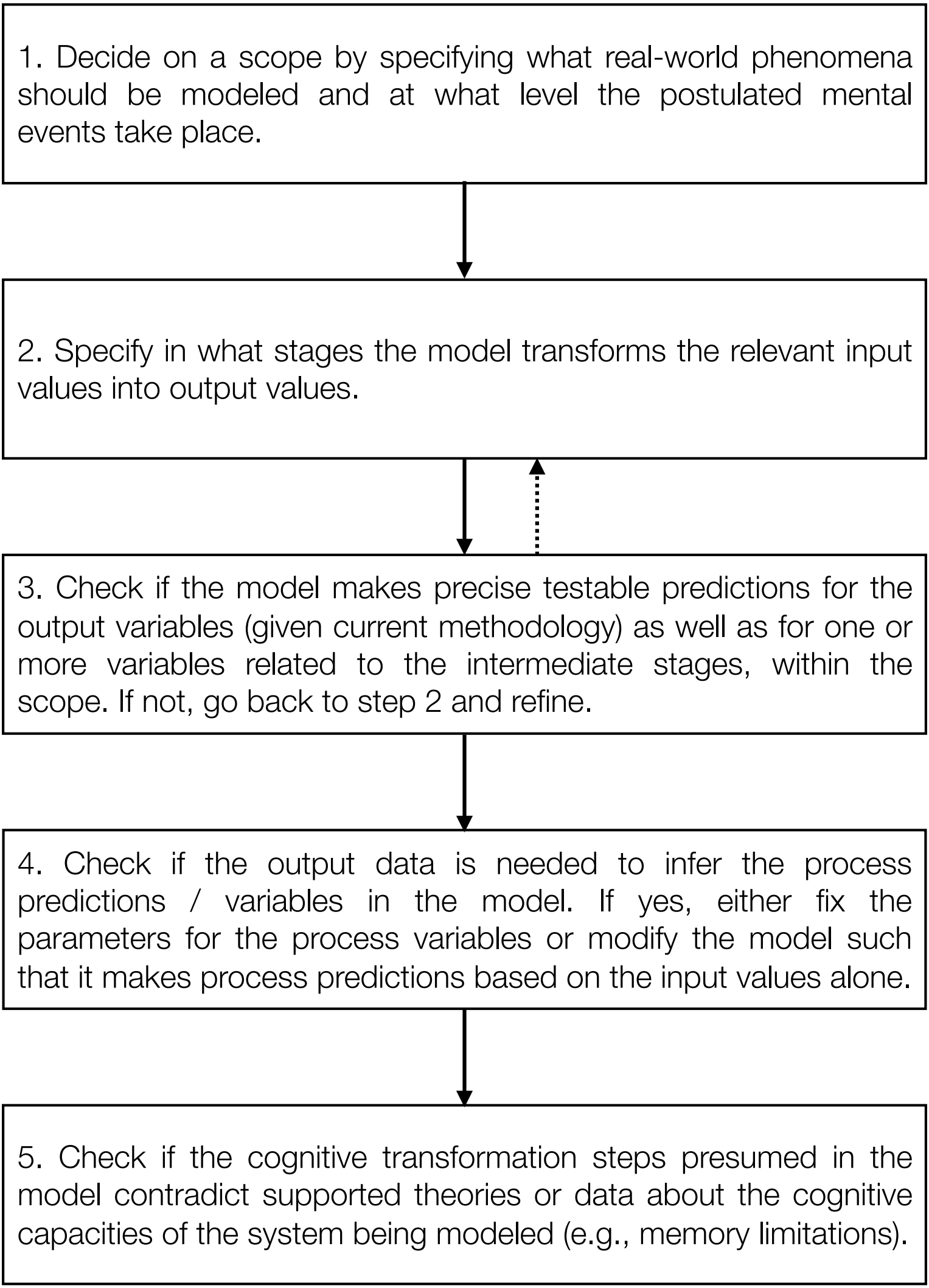
1. Decide on a scope by specifying what real-world phenomena should be modeled and at what level the postulated mental events take place.
2. Specify in what stages the model transforms the relevant input values into output values.
3. Check if the model makes precise testable predictions for the output variables (given current methodology) as well as for one or more variables related to the intermediate stages, within the scope. If not, go back to step 2 and refine.
4. Check if the output data is needed to infer the process predictions / variables in the model. If yes, either fix the parameters for the process variables or modify the model such that it makes process predictions based on the input values alone.
5. Check if the cognitive transformation steps presumed in the model contradict supported theories or data about the cognitive capacities of the system being modeled (e.g., memory limitations).