Formulating the Answerable Question / Planning the Search Strategy – PICO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical question:</th>
<th>State the question you are trying to answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
<td>Describe your patient / population or problem:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I</strong></td>
<td>What intervention or exposure are you considering – treatment, procedure, diagnostic test?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td>Are you trying to compare two options – alternative or default therapy, drug vs. placebo, or gold standard test? Your question does not always need a comparison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>O</strong></td>
<td>What is the outcome you would like to achieve? Relieve or eliminate symptoms? Prevent recurrence? Lower mortality? Correct diagnosis?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Study Design / Research Method:**
- Randomized controlled trial
- Cohort study
- Case-control study
- Case series / reports
- Qualitative:

**Domain:**
- Therapy
- Diagnosis
- Prognosis
- Etiology
- Other:

**Well-built clinical question:** (Among P does I versus C affect O?)
**Major concepts to build search strategy**

- **Name the major concepts in your question** (generally, the population, intervention and comparison).

- **Note any synonyms, spelling variations and abbreviations**
  - Combine synonyms within a concept group with **OR**. Combine different concepts with **AND**.

- **Identify subject headings used in the databases selected to search. Different databases may have different subject headings for the same concept.**

**Limit results**

**Study design / Methodology?**

- **Human only**
- **Male**
- **Female**

**Age group:**
- **Infant:** ___ - ____ months
- **Child:** ___ - ____ years
- **Adolescent:** ___ - ____ years
- **Adult:** ___ - ____ years
- **Aged:** ___ - ____ years
- **Other range:**

**Publication date:**
- **Last 1 year**
- **Last 5 years**
- **Last 10 years**
- **1980 – present**
- **1950 – present**
- **Other range:**

**Language of publication:**
- **English only**
- **Other:**