Formulating the Answerable Question / Planning the Search Strategy – PICO

Clinical question: State the question you are trying to answer	
P	Describe your **patient** / **population** or **problem**:
I	What **intervention** or **exposure** are you considering – treatment, procedure, diagnostic test?
C	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.*
O	What is the **outcome** you would like to achieve? Relieve or eliminate symptoms? Prevent recurrence? Lower mortality? Correct diagnosis?

Study Design **/** Research **M**ethod**:**

- ☐ 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

	Concept A - **P**opulation		Concept B – **I**ntervention		Concept C - **C**omparison
• Name the major concepts in your question (generally, the population, intervention and comparison) • Note any synonyms, spelling variations and abbreviations		**A N D**		**A N D**	
• Combine synonyms *within* a concept group with **OR**. Combine different concepts with **AND**.	**OR**		**OR**		**OR**
• Identify subject headings used in the databases selected to search. Different databases may have different subject headings for the same concept.	**OR**		**OR**		**OR**

Limit results

Study design / **M**ethodology?

☐ 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: