

PICO Worksheet

PICO Elements: Use this chart to identify the important concepts associated with your topic.

PICO Elements	Search Terms (include synonyms, brand names, generic names, abbreviations...)
P (Patient or problem) What are the patient’s most important characteristics? What is the primary problem?	
I (Intervention) What main intervention are you considering?	
C (Comparison) What will the intervention be compared to?	
O (Outcome) What are you trying to accomplish? What is the effect of the intervention?	

Clinical Question: Write your topic as a focused question. Be sure to include the PICO elements.

Type of Question:

- Therapy Etiology / Harm Prevention
 Diagnosis Prognosis Other _____

Search Strategy:

- Use the terms from the chart to structure a search statement. As a general rule, your results will be better if you incorporate no more than 2 or 3 concepts into a search. Be sure to use the appropriate “Boolean” connector (AND, OR, NOT) and consider using subject headings for improved results.
- Which databases will you search? What types of studies will you look for?

Evaluate Your Results: Are you happy with your results? If not, how can you improve them?