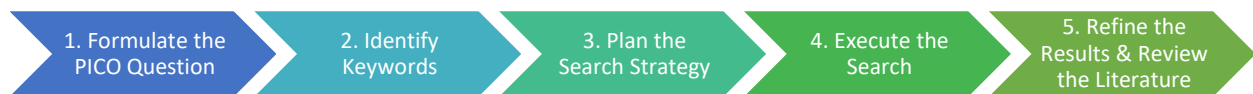


Yale New Haven Health Bridgeport Hospital PICO Worksheet

What is the PICO Process?

PICO is a mnemonic used by clinicians to describe the four components of a sound clinical question. It acts as a framework, asking you to think about different aspects of the problem in your clinical practice. Sound clinical questions identify the patient/population you would like to find literature about, the intervention or treatment you are investigating the effectiveness of, comparison of one intervention to another (if applicable), and what you would like to see as a result of the research you are conducting.

5 Steps of a PICO Search¹



1. Formulate the PICO Question
2. Identify Keywords for each PICO Element
3. Plan the Search Strategy
4. Execute the Search
5. Refine the Results & Review the literature

Tools for review, appraisal and synthesis of the evidence are available on the Library website.

Define your clinical question using PICO:

Patient/Problem: _____
 Intervention: _____
 Comparison: _____
 Outcome: _____

Write out your question: _____

Scenario (check all that apply):

- Exposure
- Therapy/Intervention
- Quality of Life
- Prevention
- Prognosis

¹ Jansen, Kathy A. Evidence-Based Nursing Practice: 7 Steps to the Perfect PICO search.

Study type that can be included in your results set (check all that apply):

- Meta-Analysis
- Cohort Study
- Qualitative Study
- Systematic Review
- Case Control Study
- Randomized Controlled Trial
- Case Series or Case Report

List main and alternative terms from your PICO question that may be used in your search

Main Term	Synonym

List your inclusion criteria – i.e. gender, age, years of publication

List irrelevant terms that you may want to exclude from your search

Identify which databases you plan to search

- CINAHL
- Medline
- PubMed
- Cochrane
- EBMR
- Joanna Briggs

Please contact your librarian if you need assistance at any step of this process.