

## The PICO Model

PICO can be used for the development of a literature search strategy and for clinical question development.

PICO stands for:

<b>Patient or Problem</b>	Who is the treatment/procedure being given to? What is the condition or problem? What are the most important characteristics/demographics?
<b>Intervention</b>	What treatment/procedure is being given? What is happening to the patient/population?
<b>Comparison</b>	Which group will be used as a comparison (eg. same subjects over time, a control group – random, matched, historical etc.)? How much better is this procedure than another? What alternatives are there?
<b>Outcome</b>	Health outcomes, satisfaction, costs, etc. How is the effect of the intervention/exposure measured?

### Example question:

In adults over 65 years old with coronary heart disease, is long term use of prophylactic drug X necessary to prevent reoccurrence of heart attacks?

**Patient or Problem** coronary heart disease in adults over 65 years old

**Intervention** prophylactic drug X

**Comparison**

**Outcome** prevention of heart attacks

## Additional Search Considerations

<b>Type of Scenario</b>	Diagnosis Therapy/prevention Prognosis Harm Etiology Other
<b>Type of Study</b>	Randomized controlled trial Meta analysis Systematic review Cohort Case control Cross-section Case series/report Other
<b>Inclusion criteria</b>	Gender Age Publication dates Language Other
<b>Databases</b>	Medline Cochrane Embase ACP DARE Other

**\*\* Remember to include alternative terms/synonyms to your PICO terms in the search.**