PICOS Worksheet and Search Strategy

1. Define your question using PICOS by identifying: Patient Population or Problem, Intervention (treatment/test), Comparison (group or treatment), Outcomes, and Setting.

   Your question should be used to help establish your search strategy.

   Patient/Problem ________________________________________
   Intervention ________________________________________
   Comparison ________________________________________
   Outcome ________________________________________
   Setting ________________________________________

   Write out your question:
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

2. Type of question/problem: Circle one: Therapy/Prevention, Diagnosis, Etiology, Prognosis

3. Type of study (Publication Type) to include in the search: Check all that apply:
   - Meta-Analysis
   - Systematic Review
   - Randomized Controlled Trial
   - Cohort Study
   - Case Control Study
   - Case series or Case Report
   - Animal Research
   - In Vitro/Lab Research
   - Editorials, Letters, Opinions

4. List main topics and alternate terms from your PICOS question that can be used for your search
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

   List your inclusion criteria - gender, age, year of publication, language
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

   List irrelevant terms that you may want to exclude in your search
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

5. List where you plan to search, i.e., CINAHL, MEDLINE, PubMed, PsycINFO, Dissertations/Thesis
   ___________________________________________________________________________________