# Template for asking PICOT questions

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| INTERVENTION/THERAPY  In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (P), how does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (I) compared to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (C) affect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (O) within \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (T)? |
| ISSUE  In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(P), how do best practices or strategies (I) compared to current practice (C) affect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(O) within \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(T)? |
| MEANING  How do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (P) with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (I) perceive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (O) during \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (T)? |
| PROGNOSIS/PREDICTION  In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (P), how does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (I) compared to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (C) influence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (O) over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (T)? |
| DIAGNOSIS OR DIAGNOSTIC TEST  In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (P) are/is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (I) compared with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (C) more accurate in diagnosing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (O)? |
| ETIOLOGY  Are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (P), who have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (I) compared with those without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (C) at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ risk for/of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (O) over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (T)? |

# Short definitions of different types of questions

**Intervention/Therapy**: When you need to know what is the best approach to this situation?

**Issue:** When you need to know what is the best approach to a situation?

**Meaning**:When you need to know about the experience of this situation.

**Prognosis/Prediction**: Do you need to know what is the most likely progression for a patient?

**Diagnosis**: When you need to know about tests related to a patient’s diagnosis.

**Etiology**: When you need to know about risk factors contributing to a patient’s diagnosis.

# PICO Question Notes

# Searchable questions produce your key words to use searching the literature!

# Searchable questions are NOT your PROJECT!

* Searchable questions are specific and not biased.
* PICO questions are always written in the past tense.
* Use terms that will be in the literature (no “local” terms)
* Do not use a direction (improve, decrease) in PICOT questions.
* Population and outcome must match – the outcome must address the population.

# Sample questions

**Intervention/Therapy:**

1. In patients with hepatitis B (P), how does acetaminophen (I) compared to ibuprofen (C) affect liver function (O)?
2. In children with spastic cerebral palsy (P), how does splinting and casting (I) compared to constraint- induced therapy (C) affect two-handed skill development (O)?

**Issue:**

In healthcare organization\*, how do best practices or strategies compared to current practice affect retention?

**Meaning:**

How do children (P) with asthma (I) perceive participation in school sports and activities (O)?

**Prognosis/Prediction:**

In patients 65 years and older (P), how does the influenza vaccine (I) compared to no influenza vaccine (C) influence development of pneumonia (O) during flu season (T)?

**Diagnosis:**

In adult patients with acute abdominal pain (P), is IV and oral contrast (I) compared with IV only contrast (C) more accurate in diagnosing appendicitis (O)?

**Etiology:**

Are adopted children (P) who have parents with elevated BMI (I) compared with those parents with normal BMI (C) at risk for obesity (O)?