### PICO Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patient, Problem</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Intervention</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Comparison</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Outcomes</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Rarely** do you use all 4 concepts. Try switching up the combinations to be thorough in your searching
  - P + I + C
  - P + I + O
  - P + O  [NOTE: this approach will be too broad to work in many situations]
- **BOOLEAN**:
  - OR between the synonyms/alternative terms you define for each concept
  - AND to combine the concepts
- Clinical Question Formula: In **P**, does **I**, compared with **C**, achieve **O**?
Boolean Operators: A Quick Review

THE BOOLEAN "AND"

When terms/concepts are combined with the AND operator, retrieved records must contain all the terms. For example: "Does taking aspirin cause Reye's Syndrome in children?" This will retrieve citations that discuss all three concepts in each article. The more concepts you AND together, the fewer records you will retrieve.

THE BOOLEAN "OR"

The Boolean operator OR allows you to broaden a concept and include synonyms. For example, \textit{kidney disease OR renal diseases} will retrieve citations using either (or both) terms. This expands your search by retrieving citations in which either or both terms appear. The more concepts or keywords you OR together, the more records you will retrieve.

THE BOOLEAN "NOT"

The final Boolean operator NOT allows you to exclude concepts not relevant to your search. For example, you could search multi-infarct dementia by using \textit{Dementia NOT Alzheimer's}.

But be careful using this because you would eliminate records discussing both types of dementia, as all articles discussing Alzheimer's are eliminated.

Source: https://hsl.lib.umn.edu/biomed/help/boolean-operators