Creating a Search Strategy Using PICO: Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome

In ____ (P), how does ____ (I) compared to ____ (C) affect ____ (O)?

☑ Step 1
Define your question using PICO

Patient, Population, or Problem

Describe your patient, population or problem, the disease, or main topic of your question; include specific characteristics that would be important to your search:

Intervention

What intervention or action are you considering - treatment, diagnostic test, educational technique etc.; include any specific issues you’d like to investigate:

Comparison

Are you trying to compare or decide between two options - your clinical question does not always need a specific comparison:

Outcome

What is the outcome you’d like to achieve; what are you trying to do for the patient; what are the patient-relevant consequences:
☑ Step 2
List **keywords** from your PICO question that can be used for your search:

☑ Step 3
List **other criteria** - year of publication, language, geographic location, etc. - that can be used to limit your search:

☑ Step 4
List **thesaurus** (synonyms) or **subject heading terms** related to your keywords from your PICO question that can also be used for your search:

☑ Step 5
List the **databases** you plan to search and how you plan to locate the required texts: