PICO Worksheet and Search Strategy

1. Define your question using PICO: (Your question should be used to help establish your search strategy.)
   - **P** (Patient/Problem)
   - **I** (Intervention)
   - **C** (Comparison)
   - **O** (Outcome)

   Write out your question: ____________________________________________________________

2. Type of scenario: 
   - [ ] Therapy/Prevention
   - [ ] Diagnosis
   - [ ] Etiology
   - [ ] Prognosis
   - [ ] Other

3. Type of study: (keep in mind the evidence hierarchy)
   - [ ] Systematic Review
   - [ ] Meta analysis
   - [ ] Randomized Controlled Trial
   - [ ] Cohort Study
   - [ ] Case Control Study
   - [ ] Cross Section Study
   - [ ] Case Series or Case Report
   - [ ] Editorials, Letters, Opinions
   - [ ] Animal Research
   - [ ] In Vitro ('Test Tube')/ Lab Research

4. List the main topics and alternative terms (synonyms) from your PICO that can be used for your search: (use controlled vocabulary, e.g. Mesh, if possible).
   - **P** (________________________) OR (________________________) AND
   - **I** (________________________) OR (________________________) AND
   - **C** (________________________) OR (________________________) AND
   - **O** (________________________) OR (________________________) AND

   List any inclusion criteria – gender, age, level, publication dates, language: ____________________________
   ____________________________

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

5. List the databases you plan to search: (ex. PubMed, Cochrane, First Consult, MD Consult, 5 Minute Consult, TRIP, ClinicalKey)
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Contact Lana Wood, Health Sciences & Nursing Librarian, 510-885-2656 or lana.wood@csueastbay.edu for assistance.