

A comparison of patient, intervention, comparison, outcome (PICO) to a new, alternative clinical question framework for search skills, search results, and self-efficacy: a randomized controlled trial

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APPENDIX C

Question formulation rubric for comparison of patient, intervention, comparison, outcome (PICO) to new framework (taken from Modified Fresno Test; point scheme modified)

QUESTION #1: Read the clinical scenario. Write a focused clinical question for that scenario that will help you organize a search of the clinical literature.

	Excellent (4)	Strong (3)	Limited (2)	Minimal	Not evident (0)
a: Population /4	Multiple relevant descriptors; e.g., "work-related injury," "female," or "acute," or "low-back pain"; e.g., "boy with hemiparesis" specific age group, gender, diagnosis, motor presentation	One appropriate descriptor as above examples; e.g., "women," or "worker," or "low-back pain"; e.g., "hemiparesis," "boy," "10-year-old," "post-stroke"	A single general descriptor unlikely to contribute to search; e.g., "patient"		None of the above present

	Excellent (4)	Strong (3)	Limited (2)	Minimal	Not evident (0)
b: Intervention /4	Includes specific intervention of interest (intervention could be a diagnostic technique): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manual therapy • specific individual components of manual therapy • combination of exercise and manual therapy • task-specific strengthening 		Mentions intervention but unlikely to contribute to search; e.g., “methods,” “options,” “treatments”		None of the above present
c: Comparison /4	Identifies specific alternative of interest; e.g., “no manual therapy”; “low intensity stretching”		Mentions comparison but unlikely to contribute to search; e.g., “alternate methods”		None of the above present
d: Outcome /4	Outcome that is objective and meaningful to patient or patient case (if question is diagnostic, should relate to diagnosis trying to detect); e.g., return to work, pain reduction, injury prevention; e.g., selective motor control or functional use of paretic extremities, walking velocity	Nonspecific outcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recovery • spasticity • tone • strength 	Reference to outcome, but so general as to be unlikely to contribute to search: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effects • change the outcome • effective • improvement • success • change the outcome 		None of the above present