PICO Worksheet

Use the following worksheet to capture your PICO elements to help you develop a search strategy for your clinical question.

Clinical scenario:

Define your question using PICO:

P: Patient/Problem ________________________________________________________________

I: Intervention ______________________________________________________________________

C: Comparison _________________________________________________________________

O: Outcome __________________________________________________________________________

Using the above PICO elements, write out your clinical question:

Circle the main concepts in your clinical question. These are keywords or terminology you will be using to develop your search strategy.

List the main concepts—capture the terms and alternative terms (synonyms) that you can use for searching the databases:

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Check official subjects provided by databases, (MESH, CINAHL Headings, etc.) for terms to use for important concepts in your strategy.

Combine terms using Boolean Operators. Synonyms in each column should be separated by OR. AND limits the search. OR expands the search.