***PICO Worksheet Example***

1. Use the following categories to help define your problem and what you are looking at in simple terms

**PICO**: Patient/Problem, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome. (Quantitative situation)

***(remember to use your readings to help you if you are unsure)***

Patient/Problem: Operating Theatre Staff/Surgeons/Anaesthetist/Theatre Nurses

Intervention: Music

Comparison: No Music/Silence

Outcome: Adverse Events/Mistakes/Surgical Error/Communication/Post Operative Complications/ Patient Mortality

2. Now use these terms from the question above to create your **PICO research question** so that you have a clear purpose for your search:

Are operating theatre staff adversely affected by music playing during procedures as to increase the risk of adverse events, mistakes, surgical errors, communication issues or patient mortality?

3. What type of question do you think this PICO answers?

It answers questions relating to Therapy, Prognosis, Causation and Psychometric Studies.

4. The table below will help you to think of the other terms that you might also like to look up when searching for evidence to help you answer your question – this is part of basic planning for a research search.

* We ask you to look up **alternative terms** because sometimes articles from health systems call things different names – for example, in Australia we sometimes us the term ‘community nurses’, but in the UK they often talk about ‘district nurses’ – if you only searched under ‘district nurse’ you’d miss all the articles which used the other term – you would be missing some of the picture!

QUANTITATIVE QUESTION

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population** | **Intervention** | **Comparison**  **(not commonly used in actual database search strategy)** | **Outcome**  **(not commonly used in actual database search strategy)** |
| What is your population? **Main search term:**  Operating Theatre Staff  What other terms might have been used?  **Alternative search terms:**  Operating Rooms  Operating Room Nursing  Perioperative Nursing  Theatre Nurse  Nurse Anaesthetist  Surgeons  Anaesthetist | What is your intervention? **Main search term:**  Music  What other terms might have been used?  **Alternative search terms:**  Operating Room Music  Operating Theatre Music  Background Music | What is your comparison? **Main search term:**  No Music  What other terms might have been used?  **Alternative search terms:**  Silence | What is your outcome? **Main search term:**  Adverse Event  What other terms might have been used?  **Alternative search terms:**  Mistake  Surgical Error  Medical Error  Intraoperative Complications  Medication Error  Communication  Intraoperative Communication  Patient Safety  Patient Mortality  Postoperative Complication  Surgical Outcome |

5. Is there a particular group of people that you want to look at? List here any inclusion criteria you might use to refine your search if you have too many papers:

Gender: ALL Age Range: ALL Publication Dates: ALL Language: ALL (preferably English or able to be translated)

6. What kind of study do you think would best answer your question? Select here which type of article you might want to access. You can also use these to refine your search if you have a lot of papers.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| □ Systematic Review  □ Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)  □ Cohort Study  □ Case-control Study/Case Series | □ Qualitative Study  □ Economic Evaluation  □ Clinical Practice Guidelines |

***Systematic Search Plan (this is what we call a Search Strategy)***

7. Now that you have decided on WHAT you will be searching, you need to put down a plan of HOW you will search for your articles. This helps you and others to see how you got your evidence and how you made sure you got the best evidence to help you decide on your clinical action.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Key terms: |
| 1 | Operating Theatre Staff |
| 2 | Operating Rooms |
| 3 | Operating Room Nursing |
| 4 | Perioperative Nursing |
| 5 | Theatre Nurse |
| 6 | Surgeons |
| 7 | Nurse Anaesthetist |
| 8 | Anaesthetist |
| 9 | Music |
| 10 | Operating Room Music |
| 11 | Operating Theatre Music |
| 12 | Background Music |
| 13 | No Music |
| 14 | Silence |
| 15 | Adverse Event |
| 16 | Mistake |
| 17 | Surgical Error |
| 18 | Medical Error |
| 19 | Intraoperative Complications |
| 20 | Medication Error |
| 21 | Communication |
| 22 | Intraoperative Communication |
| 23 | Patient Safety |
| 24 | Patient Mortality |
| 25 | Postoperative Complications |
| 26 | Surgical Outcome |
| 14 | 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 |
| 15 | 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 |
| 16 | 13 or 14 |
| 17 | 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 |
| 18 | 14 and 15 and 16 and 17 |

8. The final step is to paste in a picture (screenshot/screengrab) of the search that you did in the database. The picture has to be readable!!!

**MEDLINE OVID DATABASE USED – Search too big for one screen shot, broken into P I C O and PIO and PICO results**









