

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 use 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	What is your intervention? Main search term: Music What other terms might have been used? Alternative search terms: Operating Room Music	What is your comparison? Main search term: No Music What other terms might have been used? Alternative search terms:	What is your outcome? Main search term: Adverse Event What other terms might have been used? Alternative search terms: Mistake Surgical Error Medical Error

Theatre Nurse Nurse Anaesthetist Surgeons Anaesthetist	Operating Theatre Music Background Music	Silence	Intraoperative Complications Medication Error Communication Intraoperative Communication Patient Safety Patient Mortality Postoperative Complication Surgical Outcome
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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

▼ Search History (11 searches) (close) View Saved					
<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	operating theatre staff.mp.	53	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Operating Rooms/	11329	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Operating Room Nursing/	5923	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Perioperative Nursing/	6111	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	theatre nurse.mp.	84	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Surgeons/	388	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	surgeon.mp.	68535	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Nurse Anesthetists/	2405	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	anaesthetist.mp.	2301	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	anesthetist.mp.	1458	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10	95550	Advanced	Display More ➤
Remove Selected Save Selected Combine selections with: And Or RSS					
Save Search History					
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Music/	11114	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	music.mp.	17360	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	operating room music.mp.	1	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	operating theatre music.mp.	0	Advanced	Delete More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	16	background music.mp.	171	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16	17360	Advanced	Display More ➤
Remove Selected Save Selected Combine selections with: And Or RSS					
Save Search History					
<input type="checkbox"/>	18	No Music.mp.	187	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	silence.mp.	7738	Advanced	Display More ➤
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	18 or 19	7917	Advanced	Display More ➤
Remove Selected Save Selected Combine selections with: And Or RSS					
Save Search History					

<input type="checkbox"/>	21	adverse event*.mp.	92808	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	22	mistake*.mp.	16691	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	surgical error*.mp.	359	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Medical Errors/	13479	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	Intraoperative Complications/	27340	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	26	Medication Errors/	11005	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	27	communication*.mp.	270265	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	28	intraoperative communication*.mp.	30	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	29	Patient Safety/	7574	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	30	patient safety.mp.	22286	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	31	patient mortality.mp.	1703	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	32	Postoperative Complications/	303497	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	33	post operative complication.mp.	628	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	34	surgical outcome.mp.	6441	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	35	21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 or 27 or 28 or 29 or 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34	736700	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	36	11 and 17 and 20 and 35	1	Advanced	 Display	More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	37	11 and 17 and 35	19	Advanced	 Display	More >