Come Visit Us!

Evidence-Based Medicine Skills
Step 1: Asking a Precise Clinical Question—PICO Form

For further research assistance access the Wahlstrom Library website via the myUB Portal.

Ask a Librarian via Chat: Available when the Library is open through the Library website.

E-mail a Librarian: reference@bridgeport.edu

Call a Librarian: 203-576-4747

Walk-ins welcome, no appointment needed!
Use the PICO form to create a very precise, specific question about a clinical situation. This is also known as a **foreground question**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stands for:</th>
<th>Meaning:</th>
<th>Include:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
<td>Patient, Problem or Population</td>
<td>The patient, population of interest, or clinical problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I</strong></td>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>One proposed intervention and/or treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td>Comparison Intervention</td>
<td>If alternative interventions are being considered. Multiple comparisons if necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>O</strong></td>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>The outcome you and your patient want</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example of a filled-out PICO form:**

**P:** 10-year-old male with mild persistent asthma

**I:** Cromolyn 4 times/day

**C:** Montelukast once/day

**O:** Reduce asthma attack frequency

The PICO form is intended as a brief synopsis of the clinical question. It helps clarify the clinical question and provides concepts and keywords needed to efficiently locate high-quality research articles that answer the clinical question.

For further assistance contact a librarian. PICO forms are available at the desk on the first floor, and librarians can help fill out the PICO form.