

Review Type	Aim	Question Format	Example Question
Costs/Economic Evaluation	To determine the costs associated with a particular approach/treatment strategy, particularly in terms of cost effectiveness or benefit	<b>PICOC</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population,</li> <li>• Intervention</li> <li>• Comparison</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> <li>• Context</li> </ul>	What is the cost effectiveness [O] of self-monitoring [I] of blood glucose in type 2 diabetes [P] in high income countries [C]?
Diagnostic Test Accuracy	To determine how well a diagnostic test works in terms of its sensitivity and specificity for a particular diagnosis	<b>PIRD</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Index Test</li> <li>• Reference Test</li> <li>• Diagnosis of Interest</li> </ul>	What is the diagnostic test accuracy of nutritional tools (e.g., Malnutrition Screening Tool) [I] compared to the Patient Generated Subjective Global Assessment [R] amongst patients with colorectal cancer [P] to identify undernutrition [D]?
Effectiveness	To evaluate the effectiveness of a certain treatment/practice in terms of its impact on outcomes	<b>PICO</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population/Problem</li> <li>• Intervention</li> <li>• Comparison</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> </ul>	What is the effectiveness of exercise [I] for treating depression [O] in adults [P] compared to no treatment or a comparison treatment [C]?
Etiology and/or Risk	To determine the association between particular exposures/risk factors and outcomes	<b>PEO</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Exposure</li> <li>• Outcome</li> </ul>	Are adults [P] exposed to radon [E] at risk for developing lung cancer [O]?
Experiential (Qualitative)	To investigate the experience or meaningfulness of a particular phenomenon	<b>PICo</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population or problem</li> <li>• Phenomenon of Interest</li> <li>• Context</li> </ul>	What is the experience of undergoing high technology medical imaging [I] (such an MRI) in adult patients [P] in high income countries [Co]?
Experiential (Qualitative)	To investigate the experience or meaningfulness of a particular phenomenon	<b>SPICE</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting (where)</li> <li>• Perspective (who)</li> <li>• Intervention/Exposure/Interest (what)</li> <li>• Comparison (what else?)</li> <li>• Evaluation (how well or what results?)</li> </ul>	What are the coping skills [E] of parents of children with autism [P] undergoing behavioral therapy [I] in school [S]?
Experiential (Qualitative)	To investigate the experience or meaningfulness of a particular phenomenon	<b>SPIDER</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sample</li> <li>• Phenomenon of Interest</li> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> <li>• Research type</li> </ul>	What are the experiences [E] of women [S] undergoing IVF [PI]?
Expert opinion/policy	To review and synthesize current expert opinion, text or policy on a certain phenomena	<b>PICo</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Phenomenon of Interest</li> <li>• Context</li> </ul>	What are the policy strategies to reduce maternal mortality [I] in pregnancy and birthing women [P] in Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka [C]?
Methodology	To examine and investigate current research methods and potentially their impact on research quality.	<b>SDMO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of Studies</li> <li>• Types of Data</li> <li>• Types of Methods</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> </ul>	What is the effect of blind peer review [M] for quantitative studies [S] in terms of the study quality [O] as reported in published reports [D]?

Prevalence and/or Incidence	To determine the prevalence and/or incidence of a certain condition	<b>CoCoPop –</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>C</b>ondition</li> <li>• <b>C</b>ontext</li> <li>• <b>P</b>opulation</li> </ul>	What is the prevalence/incidence of claustrophobia and claustrophobic reaction [ <b>Co</b> ] in adult patients [ <b>Pop</b> ] undergoing MRI [ <b>Co</b> ]?
Prognostic	To determine the overall prognosis for a condition, the link between specific prognostic factors and an outcome and/or prognostic/prediction models and prognostic tests	<b>PFO –</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>P</b>opulation</li> <li>• Prognostic <b>F</b>actor (or models of interest)</li> <li>• <b>O</b>utcome</li> </ul>	In adults [ <b>P</b> ] with low back pain [ <b>F</b> ], what is the association between individual recovery expectations [ <b>O</b> ] and disability outcomes?
Psychometric	To evaluate the psychometric properties of a certain test, normally to determine the reliability and validity of a particular test or assessment	<b>CPTM –</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>C</b>onstruct of interest or name of measurement instrument</li> <li>• <b>P</b>opulation</li> <li>• <b>T</b>ype of measurement instrument</li> <li>• <b>M</b>easurement properties</li> </ul>	What is the reliability, validity, responsiveness and interpretability [ <b>M</b> ] of methods (manual muscle testing, isokinetic dynamometry, hand-held dynamometry) [ <b>T</b> ] to assess muscle strength [ <b>C</b> ] in adults [ <b>P</b> ]?

Adapted from: [What kind of systematic review should I conduct? A proposed typology and guidance for systematic reviewers in the medical and health sciences. Munn Z, Stern C, Aromataris E, Lockwood C, Jordan Z. BMC Med Res Methodol. 2018 Jan 10;18\(1\):5. doi: 10.1186/s12874-017-0468-4.PMID: 29316881](#)