

Template for Asking PICOT Questions

INTERVENTION

In _____ (P), how does _____ (I) compared to _____ (C) affect _____ (O) within _____ (T)?

ETIOLOGY

Are _____ (P), who have _____ (I) compared with those without _____ (C) at _____ risk for/of _____ (O) over _____ (T)?

DIAGNOSIS OR DIAGNOSTIC TEST

In _____ (P) are/is _____ (I) compared with _____ (C) more accurate in diagnosing _____ (O)?

PROGNOSIS/PREDICTION

In _____ (P), how does _____ (I) compared to _____ (C) influence _____ (O) over _____ (T)?

MEANING

How do _____ (P) with _____ (I) perceive _____ (O) during _____ (T)?

Short Definitions of Different Types of Questions:

Intervention: Questions addressing the treatment of an illness or disability.

Etiology: Questions addressing the causes or origins of disease (i.e., factors that produce or predispose toward a certain disease or disorder).

Diagnosis: Questions addressing the act or process of identifying or determining the nature and cause of a disease or injury through evaluation.

Prognosis/Prediction: Questions addressing the prediction of the course of a disease.

Meaning: Questions addressing how one experiences a phenomenon.

Copyright, Ellen Fineout-Overholt, 2006. This form may be used for educational & research purposes without permission.

Sample Questions:

Intervention: In African-American female adolescents with hepatitis B (P), how does acetaminophen (I) compared to ibuprofen (C) affect liver function (O)?

Etiology: The question could read: Are 30- to 50-year-old women (P) who have high blood pressure (I) compared with those without high blood pressure (C) at increased risk for an acute myocardial infarction (O) during the first year after hysterectomy (T)?

Diagnosis: In middle-aged males with suspected myocardial infarction (P), are serial 12-lead ECGs (I) compared to one initial 12-lead ECG (C) more accurate in diagnosing an acute myocardial infarction (O)?

Prognosis/Prediction: 1) For patients 65 years and older (P), how does the use of an influenza vaccine (I) compared to not received the vaccine (C) influence the risk of developing pneumonia (O) during flu season (T)?

2) In patients who have experienced an acute myocardial infarction (P), how does being a smoker (I) compared to a non-smoker (C) influence death and infarction rates (O) during the first 5 years after the myocardial infarction (T)?

Meaning: How do 20-something males (P) with a diagnosis of below the waist paralysis (I) perceive their interactions with their romantic significant others (O) during the first year after their diagnosis (T)?