The PICO(M) Model

To Create a Search Strategy, First Ask an Answerable Question

Use the PICO(M) Model to help formulate a question¹:

**Patient characteristics or problem**
For example: female patient with measles

**Intervention** (a cause, a prognostic factor, a treatment, etc.)
What are the treatment options?

**Comparison intervention**
Is there more than one treatment option, or compare to no treatment

**Outcome(s)**
For example: healthy patient, less pain, less time sick

**Methodology**
If investigating treatment options – limit search retrieval to randomized controlled trials as one option