PICOT Questions >Types of Evidence > Databases

Type of Clinical Question	Primary Research Use CINAHL and Medline to find: Randomized controlled trials (RCT) Controlled Trials Case-control studies Cohort studies Descriptive studies Qualitative studies Instrument development research	Synthesized Research (Secondary Literature) Use Cochrane, CINAHL, and Medline to find: Systematic reviews Meta-analyses	Other Evidence (Secondary Literature) Use CINAHL, NGC, Medline, Joanna Briggs Inst., Nursing, Healthcare, and Government Organizations to find: • Clinical practice guidelines Use Published clinical articles (not research based), peer institution practices, Expert clinician practices to find: • Expert opinion	
Therapy "What is the best treatment or intervention?"	Randomized controlled trials (RCT), Controlled trials	Systematic reviews	Clinical practice guidelines	
Prevention "How can I prevent this problem?"	Randomized controlled trials (RCT), Controlled trials	Systematic reviews	Clinical practice guidelines	
Diagnosis / Assessment "What is the best way to assess or best diagnostic test for this patient?"	Instrument development research		Evidence Pyramid Look for the highest level of evidence appropriate for your clinical question.	Level 1: Systematic Reviews & Meta-analysis of RCTs; Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines Level 2: One or more
Causation "What causes this problem?"	Cohort, Case control, Descriptive, or Qualitative studies	Systematic reviews		RCTs Level 3: Controlled Trials (no randomization) Level 4: Case-control or
Prognosis "What are the long term effects of this problem?"	Cohort or descriptive studies	Systematic reviews	and y	Cohort study Level 5: Systematic Review of Descriptive and Qualitative studies
Meaning "What is the meaning of this experience for patients?	Qualitative studies	Systematic reviews	Used 8	Level 6: Single Descriptive or Qualitative Study Level 7: Expert Opinion