Worksheet for building the clinical question and formulating a systematic search for Evidence Implementation or Original Research DNP Projects

Define the problem:

Determine the significance:

Provide citations that quantify the significance of the problem:
Include first author, title, journal, year, volume, issue and page numbers

Citation 1	
Citation 2	
Citation 3	

Preliminary PICO / Research Question

(P)opulation
Specific Surgical Population

(I)ntervention
What intervention are you interested in? What types of interventions are found in the literature? Range of values? Dose? Timing?

(C)omparison

(O)utcome

Let the literature guide you rather than prescribing what the outcome will be. What types of outcomes are reported in studies relevant to the PICO? How are the outcomes operationalized for the synthesis?

(T)ime

Build a Robust Search Strategy

Develop your search based on your PICO question components

Literature support is required for each step of the project, from implementation through measurement. Search for evidence to define best practice. Separately, search for validated tools for measuring the outcome variables. Provide samples of how this intervention has been implemented and studied before (may be empirical research, lab research, or previous EBP reports). Consider professional groups or associations that might have curated information on the topic already.

▶ [Watch Boxer Library tutorial: From PICO Question to Search Strategy](#)

Elements of EBP Project	Synonyms/terms to search

Determine What You Will Include in Your Review

Types of publications to include:

- ☐ Original research
- ☐ Statistics, epidemiological data
- ☐ Clinical practice guidelines
- ☐ Evidence Synthesis Literature (Systematic Review, Scoping, Umbrella, etc.)
- ☐ Books/Book chapters
- ☐ Government data
- ☐ Other

Date Range

How many years of literature do you want to include? How many are relevant? Make the case to limit your search to certain years. Do not decide on an arbitrary value of 10 years. Consider how long the treatment or phenomenon has been around. Remember that guidelines take longer to complete than other types of literature.

- ☐ All possible years
- ☐ Before:
- ☐ After:
- ☐ Between:

Include justification for indicated date range:

| |
| |

Literature Searching

Finding Evidence Synthesis Reviews on Your Topic

Please provide information on previous searching for evidence synthesis reviews on your topic.

▶ [Watch Boxer Library tutorial: How to Find Systematic Reviews](#)

(You can use the tips in these videos to find all kinds of review literature)

Terms used to find SR's:

| |
| |

Searched in:

- ☐ Medline (PubMed OR Ovid)
- ☐ Cochrane
- ☐ CINAHL
- ☐ JBI Database

☐ Embase
☐ Other:

Finding Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG)
Please provide information on previous searches for CPG on your topic.
Terms used to find CPG's:

Have professional organizations provided practice guidelines on your topic?

Please provide information on previous searching for expert guidance on your topic.
Websites used to find expert guidance on this topic:

Provide citations for relevant reviews, CPGs, and practice recommendations related to the topic. Add more citations as needed.
Include first author, title, journal, year, volume, issue and page numbers

Citation 1	
Citation 2	
Citation 3	

Based on the guidelines and reviews you have found so far...

What populations are under investigation?

What is the intervention (s) and range of intervention that comprise best practice?

What outcome variables are being reported and how are they measured. Include validated tools for measurement.

Keeping Track of Your Search

It can be easy to forget where and what you have searched as you move through the searching process. Using a simple sheet or table, you can keep track of your search.
The Boxer Library has a [Search Log Template](#) that you can download and use to track your searches!

Website/Database	Terms and Logic Used	Filters	Results	Date

Final Question & Most Relevant Clinical Guidelines and Reviews

Final PICO Question
Format as a question

Most Relevant Clinical Practice Guidelines

Source (Organization/Group/Etc.)	List Citation using APA 7th ed. (hyperlink to website)

Most Relevant Reviews

Authors	Journal	Volume, Issue, No.	Year