PICO Worksheet and Search Strategy Protocol

1. Define your question using PICO by identifying: Patient/Problem, Intervention, Comparison group and Outcome:
   
   **Patient/Problem:** Middle aged male amputees suffering phantom limb pain  
   **Intervention:** Gabapentin  
   **Comparison:** Placebo  
   **Outcome:** Decreased pain symptoms

   Write out your question:

   In middle aged male amputees suffering phantom limb pain, is gabapentin, compared to placebo, effective in decreasing pain symptoms?

2. Type of question/problem:

   Circle one: Therapy / Prevention / Diagnosis / Etiology / Prognosis

3. Type of studies/publications to include in the search:

   Check all that apply:
   
   ✓ Meta-analysis  
   ✓ Systematic review  
   □ Clinical practice guidelines  
   ✓ Randomized controlled trial  
   ✓ Research studies or articles  
   ✓ Case report or series  
   □ Research report or other grey literature

4. List main topics and alternate terms from your PICO question that can be used for your search:

   Gabapentin  
   Phantom limb pain  
   Postamputation pain  
   Post amputation pain  
   Men  
   Man  
   Male  
   Amputee  
   Amputation  
   Pain symptoms  
   Neuropathic pain symptoms

5. Write out your search strategy:

   Gabapentin  
   AND Phantom limb pain OR Postamputation pain OR Post amputation pain  
   AND Men OR Man OR Male  
   AND Amputee OR Amputation  
   AND Pain symptoms OR Neuropathic pain symptoms

6. List any limits that may apply to your search:

   Gender: Male  
   Age: Middle aged (45 to 64 years)  
   Year(s) of publication: 2005-2019  
   Language(s): English

7. List the databases you will search:

   Medline, Scopus, Cochrane Library, Health Collection (Informit)

This form is adapted from: Miller, S.A. (2001). *PICO worksheet and search strategy*. US National Center for Dental Hygiene Research.