CRICOS Provider Code: 00219C | RTO Code: 40939

PECO

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PECO AND ITS VARIATIONS

PECO is a variant of PICO which looks at Exposure instead of Intervention. It is also used in formulating clinical questions.

Population	• How is your population defined? (e.g. age, gender, ethnic group …)
Exposure	• What has your population been deliberately or inadvertently exposed to?
Comparison	• What are you comparing this with, e.g. a different level of exposure? (It's ok to leave this one blank if you are not doing a comparison)
Outcome(s)	• Which result(s) are you focusing on or measuring? • What are you hoping to improve?

Other variables that can be added to this PECO framework are:

Duration	• What is the follow up schedule?
Timeframe	• What is the duration of the exposure? • What is the follow up schedule? • Is this a longitudinal study?
Results	• Which reported results are you looking for in the literature on your topic?

Variant frameworks:

- PECODR = **P**opulation, **E**xposure, **C**omparison, **O**utcome, **D**uration, **R**esults
- PECOT = **P**opulation, **E**xposure, **C**omparison, **O**utcome, **T**imeframe
- PEO = **P**opulation, **E**xposure, **O**utcome

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Setting	• Where is your intervention of interest taking place?
Context	• Where is this happening? (e.g. geographical location or service location) • What is the social or cultural context for your population?

Variant frameworks:

- PICOC = **P**opulation, **I**ntervention, **C**omparison, **O**utcome, **C**ontext
- PICOS = **P**opulation, **I**ntervention, **C**omparison, **O**utcome, **S**tudy type
- PICOT = **P**opulation, **I**ntervention, **C**omparison, **O**utcome, **T**ime
- PICOTS = **P**opulation, **I**ntervention, **C**omparison, **O**utcome, **T**iming, **S**etting
- PICOTT = **P**opulation, **I**ntervention, **C**omparison, **O**utcome, **T**ype of question, **T**ype of study
- PIO = **P**opulation, **I**ntervention, **O**utcome

The **PICo** variation is useful for qualitative studies.

Population or Problem	• How is your population defined? (e.g. age, gender, ethnic group …) • Which of their problems, diseases or conditions are you looking at
Interest	• Which experience, activity, process or event are you interesting in focusing on?
Context	• Where is this happening? (Geographical location, e.g. Australia / Service location, e.g. hospital)

This variation of **PICO** is used for evaluating diagnostic tests.

Patient or Participants or Population	• How is your population defined? (e.g. age, gender, ethnic group …) • Which of their problems, diseases or conditions are you looking at
Index tests	• Which test are you evaluating?
Comparator or reference tests	• Which alternative are you comparing this with? (It's ok to leave this one blank if you are not doing a comparison)
Outcome	• Which result are you focusing on or measuring? • What are you hoping to improve?

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