Delfini Tool
PICPOT-SD Checklist

A helpful checklist for—

1. Framing clinical question (CI)
2. Describing & summarizing studies (PICPOT-SD)
3. Assessing heterogeneity of studies (PICPOT-SD)
4. Making indirect comparisons of studies (PICPOT-SD)
5. Synthesizing evidence (PICPOT-SD)
6. Forming clinical recommendations and decision support (varies with project)

Initial For PICOT-SD Element	Meaning	Examples of Study Elements to Review
P	Patient population	Inclusions, exclusions, table of baseline characteristics noting such things as proportion of screened individuals enrolled, demographics, attrition before randomization (+ reasons), severity of condition, co-morbidities, etc.
I	Intervention	Dosing, frequency, methods, monitoring, noting deviations from current practice, duration. Note likelihood of exposure.
C	Comparison	See Intervention, plus dose equivalency.
P	Performance outcomes of study	Training of staff and quality control. Presence or avoidance of key biases of those studies still passing a validity screening such as likely balance in study groups, success of blinding including blinded assessment, balance in co-interventions, adherence, protocol deviations, missing information, etc.
O	Outcomes	Chosen endpoints (definitions, surrogates, composites), individual items from composite outcomes, placebo event rates, etc.
T	Time issues	Concurrence in studied groups, treatment duration, follow-up duration, seasonal issues, changes over time such as in infectious disease issues, registry issues, etc.
S	Setting	Multicenter, single center, primary, secondary versus tertiary care centers, university setting, etc., noting differences for settings of interest.
D	Design of study	Experiment or observation, randomization; run-in periods to assess likelihood of nonadherence; application of intervention; care experiences; measurement methods; analysis methods including blinded assessment, alpha spending, populations for analysis, imputation, censoring rules, etc.

References

1. 5 “A”s of Evidence-based Medicine & PICOTS: Using “Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcomes, Timing, Setting” (PICOTS) In Evidence-Based Quality Improvement Workhttp://delfini.org/blog/?p=416

2. 3. Methods Guide for Effectiveness and Comparative Effectiveness Reviews. AHRQ Publication No. 10(12)-EHC063-EF. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. April 2012. Chapters available at: www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov

"Performance Outcomes of Study" added by Delfini.