

TABLE 2.1 Question Templates for Selected Clinical Foreground Questions: PIO and PICO

Type of Question	PIO Question Template (Questions Without an Explicit Comparison)	PICO Question Template (Questions With an Explicit Comparison)
Therapy/treatment/intervention	In _____ (Population), what is the effect of _____ (Intervention) on _____ (Outcome)?	In _____ (Population), what is the effect of _____ (Intervention), in comparison to _____ (Comparative/alternative intervention), on _____ (Outcome)?
Diagnosis/assessment	For _____ (Population), does _____ (Identifying tool/procedure) yield accurate and appropriate diagnostic/assessment information about _____ (Outcome)?	For _____ (Population), does _____ (Identifying tool/procedure) yield more accurate or more appropriate diagnostic/assessment information than _____ (Comparative tool/procedure) about _____ (Outcome)?
Prognosis	For _____ (Population), does _____ (Exposure to disease or condition) increase the risk of _____ (Outcome)?	For _____ (Population), does _____ (Exposure to disease or condition), relative to _____ (Comparative disease or condition) increase the risk of _____ (Outcome)?
Etiology/harm	In _____ (Population), does _____ (Influence, exposure, or characteristic) increase the risk of _____ (Outcome)?	Does _____ (Influence, exposure, or characteristic) increase the risk of _____ (Outcome) compared to _____ (Comparative influence, exposure or condition) in _____ (Population)?
Description (prevalence/incidence)	In _____ (Population), how prevalent is _____ (Outcome)?	<i>Explicit comparisons are not typical, except to compare different populations</i>
Meaning or process	What is it like for _____ (Population) to experience _____ (condition, illness, circumstance)? OR What is the process by which _____ (Population) cope with, adapt to, or live with _____ (condition, illness, circumstance)?	<i>Explicit comparisons are not typical in these types of questions</i>