1. Define your question using PICO T: (your question will help establish your search strategy)

P → Patient/Problem → ________________________________

I → Intervention/Issue → ______________________________

C → Comparison → ________________________________

O → Outcome → ________________________________

T → Time Period (optional) → ______________________________

Write out your question: ________________________________

2. Type of question: □ Therapy/Prevention □ Diagnosis □ Etiology □ Prognosis □ QI □ Other

3. Type of study or methodology of choice: (keeping in mind the evidence hierarchy)

□ Systematic Review □ Meta analysis □ Randomized Controlled Trial
□ Cohort Study □ Case Control Study □ Cross Sectional Study
□ Case Report / Case Series □ Editorials, Letters, Opinions □ Animal Research / In Vitro

4. List the main topics and any alternative terms (synonyms) from your PICO T that could be used for your search strategy: (keywords/subject headings)

P (_________________________) OR (_________________________)

_________________________ OR (_________________________) AND

I (_________________________ OR (_________________________)

_________________________ OR (_________________________) AND

C (_________________________) OR (_________________________)

_________________________) AND

O (_________________________ OR (_________________________)

List any specific criteria to include (e.g. gender, age group, study type, language):

______________________________________________________________

List any exclusion criteria or irrelevant terms (e.g. age group, comorbid diseases):

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

List any specific criteria to include (e.g. gender, age group, study type, language):

______________________________________________________________

List any exclusion criteria or irrelevant terms (e.g. age group, comorbid diseases):

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

5. List the databases you plan to search: (e.g. PubMed, Cochrane, CINAHL, PsycINFO)

______________________________________________________________

For assistance, contact Bridget Gunn, Librarian, at 413-794-1291 or bridget.gunn@baystatehealth.org.