

Population/Condition

The **P** in PICO describes the main characteristics of the participants in a study (sex, age range and condition). When annotating the Population or Participants it is important to consider the question that is the focus of the review. This is the population group that the intervention will directly affect.

- [Healthy Population](#)
- [Condition/Population is not specified](#)
- [Prevention and Risk](#)
- [Two different populations](#)
- [Sex \(gender\)](#)
- [Age](#)

Healthy Population

Term	Vocabulary URI	Notes
Healthy	https://data.cochrane.org/concepts/r4hp38frfm0w	Use this term if the authors have stated 'Healthy People' i.e. those who are being assessed for prevention of or at risk of diseases

Condition/Population is not specified

If the population or group is not specified **this field should be left empty**.

Examples:

CD number	Review title	Population as stated in the in the inclusion criteria
CD012805	Aluminium adjuvants used in vaccines versus placebo or no intervention	We will include all trial participants regardless of sex, age, ethnicity, diagnosis, comorbidity, and country of residence.
CD011047	Colchicine for prevention of cardiovascular events	We included trials in adults (aged 18 years and over) with any condition or disease.
CD008077	Slow versus fast subcutaneous heparin injections for prevention of bruising and site pain intensity	We included studies in which participants were males and females 18 years of age or older who were admitted to hospitals or clinics and treated with subcutaneous injections of heparin including LMWH and UFH.

Prevention and Risk

Some reviews look at the **prevention of** or **at risk of** a condition. In this case the condition field is left blank will likely be annotated as an outcome.

CD	Topic	Annotation
CD010518	Massage therapy for preventing pressure ulcers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population field is empty• Pressure ulcers is an Outcome• "Preventive" can be added as an Rationale modifier to Massage Therapy in the Intervention section. Click HERE for more info.
CD009551	At risk of invasive aspergillosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invasive aspergillosis would be an outcome

Two different populations

- The Population of a review or study sometimes contains two different populations (e.g. parent and child, patient and provider, student and teacher, etc.)
- The **P** section in our annotations is set up with the assumption that each **P** would reflect a single homogeneous group of individuals

- If P is not clear check the interventions, comparisons or outcomes to determine who is the target of the intervention, or will have outcome measurements performed

Populations	Description	How to annotate								
Pregnant women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During pregnancy, any intervention delivered to the mother has the potential to affect the fetus• Some authors will reflect this by stating "pregnant women and their unborn children" or some similar formulation as the P• Some of these reviews or studies will measure outcomes in both mothers and fetus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In most cases it is safe to include only information about the mother in the P and allow the P regnancy part of the annotation to indicate that a fetus is also involved								
Indirect interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In some studies an intervention directed at one group is intended to have an impact on a different group and authors include both the target and the vector in their description of P	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The target of the intervention should be used as the P and the group through which the intervention is delivered can be left un-annotated								
Study design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information about how study subjects were recruited is sometimes included but may look like 2 Ps rather than one• A study that asked physicians to recruit patients might list the P as "patients with X and their physicians"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not annotate the physician if their only role was recruitment as they will not be the target of the interventions or have outcome measurements performed <table><tr><th>CD number</th><th>Title</th><th>Types of participants</th><th>Notes</th></tr><tr><td>CD010385</td><td>Strategies of testing for syphilis during pregnancy</td><td>Eligible participants were either pregnant women at any stage of their pregnancy or healthcare facilities /clinics depending on the randomisation unit in each of the included trials</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is the intervention directed towards? Clearly the pregnant women were the P, because healthcare facilities /clinics never get antenatal syphilis screening tests.• So the healthcare facilities /clinics part can be ignored in the annotation.</td></tr></table>	CD number	Title	Types of participants	Notes	CD010385	Strategies of testing for syphilis during pregnancy	Eligible participants were either pregnant women at any stage of their pregnancy or healthcare facilities /clinics depending on the randomisation unit in each of the included trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is the intervention directed towards? Clearly the pregnant women were the P, because healthcare facilities /clinics never get antenatal syphilis screening tests.• So the healthcare facilities /clinics part can be ignored in the annotation.
CD number	Title	Types of participants	Notes							
CD010385	Strategies of testing for syphilis during pregnancy	Eligible participants were either pregnant women at any stage of their pregnancy or healthcare facilities /clinics depending on the randomisation unit in each of the included trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is the intervention directed towards? Clearly the pregnant women were the P, because healthcare facilities /clinics never get antenatal syphilis screening tests.• So the healthcare facilities /clinics part can be ignored in the annotation.							
Two populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some studies or reviews look at intervention effects in two or more populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use OR								

Sex (gender)

- Annotate the specific sex stated in the review
- If none is stated select male and female except where it may be obvious that the sex is one or the other, e.g. Pregnancy.

Age

- The age groupings have been taken from MeSH
- Some groupings may not reflect precisely the specific age group stated in the review e.g. authors may state *adults from 20 to 35 years of age* for which the annotator would need to select **Adult 19-44**
- **Adolescent** is listed under 'Child'. Under Adult we have Young Adult Years (19-24) and Adult (19-44)
- A number of studies will state in their inclusion criteria *Aged 18 years or older*. Please annotate as **Adult & Aged** (or select the specific group (s) within each category) as required.

Age groupings	Image
Infant	

	<div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infant </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Birth to 1 mo </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Infant 1 to 23 mo </div>
Child	<div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Child, Preschool 2-5 years </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Child 6-12 years </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Adolescent 13-18 years </div>
Adolescent	
Adult	<div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult 19-24 years </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 19-44 years </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Aged 45-64 years </div>
Aged	<div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aged </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Aged 65-79 years </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Aged, 80 and over 80+ years </div>

[Back to Top](#)