

# Planning a Review or Meta-Analysis

- [Is Your Systematic Review Feasible](#)
- [Protocol Writing and Registration](#)

## Define a strong research question and hypothesis include:

- Identifying the “primary and secondary aims of the study” through creating a [great literature search](#).
- Scan the current literature to identify gaps in the field. This can be done on PubMed.
- Using the **PICO** acronym **P**opulation, **I**ntervention, **C**ontrol, and **O**utcome when formulating the research question.

## Establishing a Study Team

- Identify a team lead or project manager to organize project tasks, and ensure that the study protocol is followed.
- Identify “independent reviewers” [or team members](#) to verify data, adjudicate study inclusion differences , and identify those that will participate in each step of the review process.

## Assessing Feasibility

- How to [determine if the project is viable](#) or useful to the literature
- Checking if a review is already done, too little research, etc.

## References

Muka, T., Glisic, M., Milic, J. *et al*. A 24-step guide on how to design, conduct, and successfully publish a systematic review and meta-analysis in medical research. *Eur J Epidemiol***35**, 49–60 (2020).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10654-019-00576-5>

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