**University of Utah Internal Medicine Journal Club Template:**

Updated: Brian Locke 10/31/2019

**Systematic Review and Meta-analysis:**

Systematic Review: (as opposed to narrative review) A reproducible search methodology used to answer a specific clinical question

Meta-analysis: Statistical pooling to combine the results of several studies

Goal: “Our aim [is] to distill an article down to its core while systematically reviewing its validity and telling a compelling story” Similar to case presentations, “the goal is to communicate the

essential information [..] in a mostly standardized format that is easily digested by the listener”

“Improving journal club presentations, or, I can present that paper in under 10 minutes” DOI: [10.1136/ebm.12.3.66-a](https://doi.org/10.1136/ebm.12.3.66-a)

Article Title

Study question: PICO (Patient Intervention Comparison Outcome) Format. Why is this question important?

**Systematic Review Portion:**

How did they identify relevant studies? (Was the search for studies described? Exhaustive? Reproducible?) Did they state the criteria that studies had to meet for inclusion?

Was risk of validity and bias in the primary studies assessed? How? Were there specific sources of bias?

**Meta-analysis portion:**

How did they pool study data? Did they pool individual patient data or study-level?

How heterogenous were the studies included? How heterogenous were the results? E.g. did they give a Forest plot? Did they offer an explanation for any studies that varied significantly?

Results: Are the results usable? How large is the relative and absolute effect in our target population? Is it clinically important?

Critique: Were benefits, harms, and costs considered?

Can I apply the results to my patient? How?