



Ministry of Health and Sports

Developing a good research question

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Outline

- What?
- Why?
- How?



WHAT?



A research should start with . . .

A RESEARCH QUESTION



Acceptability and feasibility of routine birth testing on the identification of undiagnosed HIV-positive infants and their initiation on ART in X country

What is the acceptability and feasibility of routine birth testing on the identification of undiagnosed HIV-positive infants and their initiation on ART in X country?





A Research Question

Uncertainty about something
the investigator wants to resolve



A Research Question

What a **researcher** would like to know:

What? When? Who? Where?

How? Why?

about a **problem**



A Research Problem

What is a Problem?

What is \neq What should be

Reasons for this difference is unclear

More than one possible solution to the problem



A Research Problem

Non-researchable problem

- A discrepancy exists between desired and observed situation
- We know why the discrepancy exists
- We know the best solution

Researchable problem

- A discrepancy exists between desired and observed situation
- We do not know why the discrepancy exists
- Different solutions exist but we do not know the best one



1. **What** are the barriers to access mental health care among HIV infected PWID?
2. **How** can caregivers be supported to effectively deliver HIV self-test to their children (>18 months of age) who are at high risk of HIV infection from mother to child transmission (MTCT)?
3. **Why** is the prevalence of opportunistic and co-infections among children with HIV high in X region?





WHY?



Why is it essential to the research process?

A well-developed research question

- help researchers **focus** their research by providing a path through the research process
- helps researcher **avoid** the “all-about” paper



HOW?



Sources of research questions

Articles

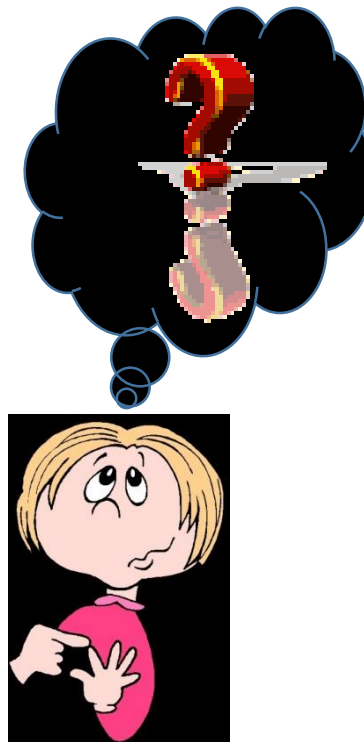
Conferences

Clinical practice

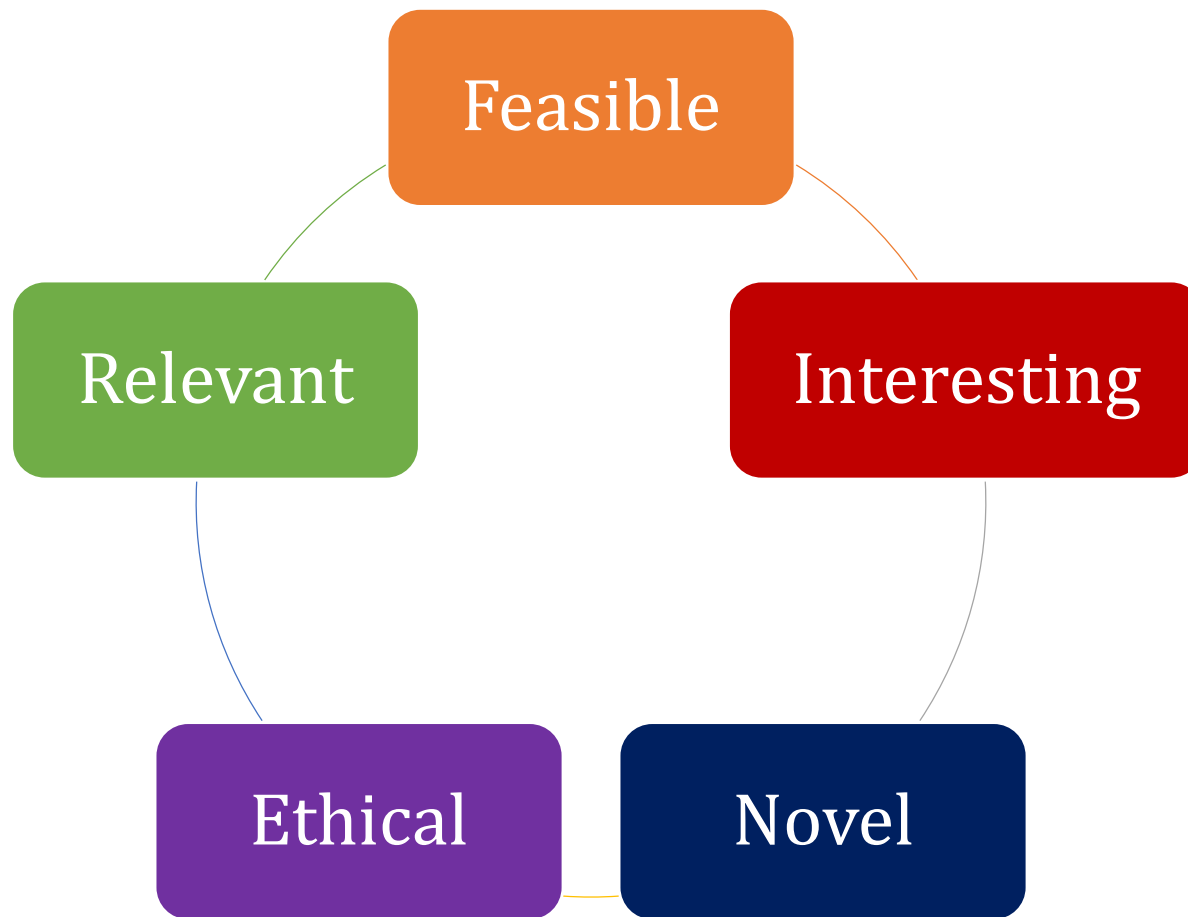
Discuss with
experts

Observations

Previous
research



Criteria for a good research question (**FINER**)



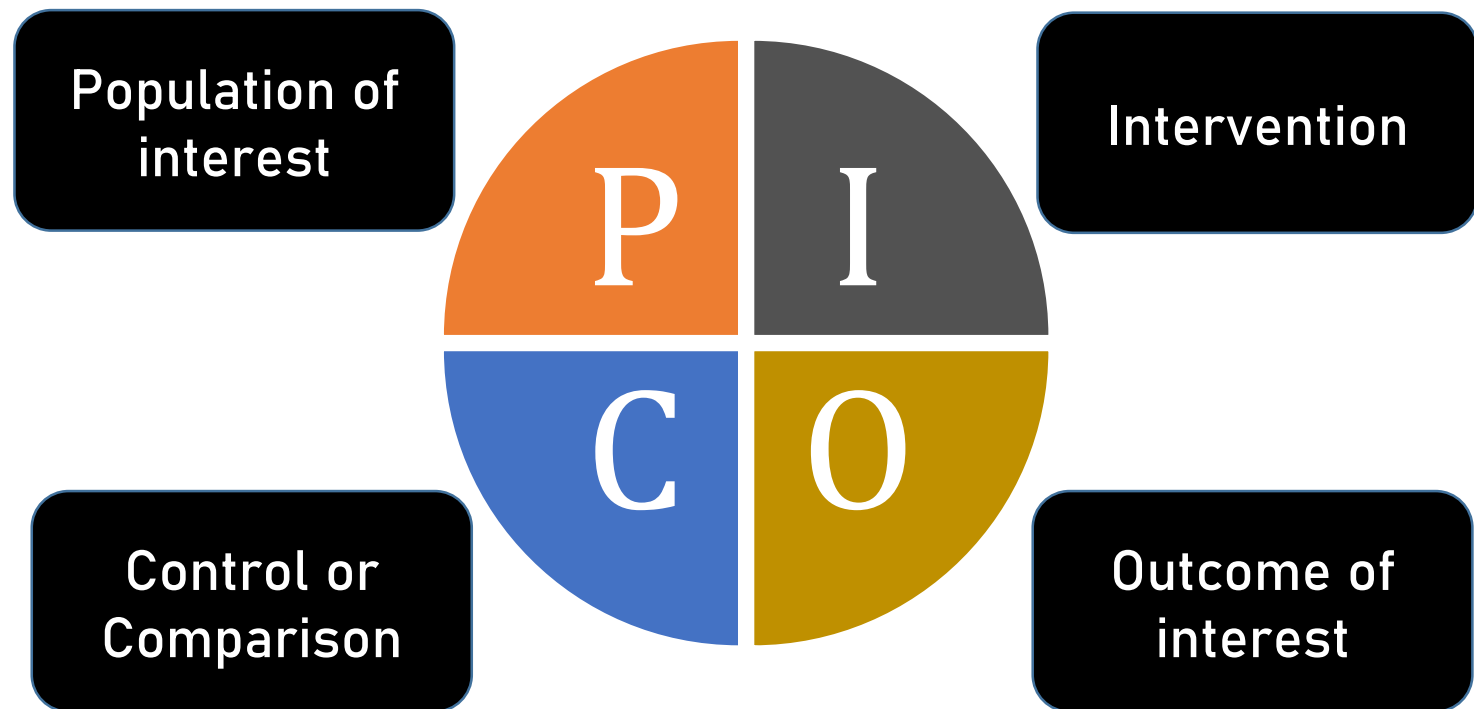


How is the comparative efficacy and safety of two new first-line ART for the treatment of HIV infection: TDF/3TC/DTG vs TDF/3TC/EFV 400 mg?

**F
I
N
E
R**



Components of a good research question (**PICO**)





How is the comparative efficacy and safety of two new first-line ART for the treatment of HIV infection: TDF/3TC/DTG vs TDF/3TC/EFV 400 mg?

P
I
C
O



What are the enabling factors for timely initiation of ART among infants and children infected with HIV?

P

I

C

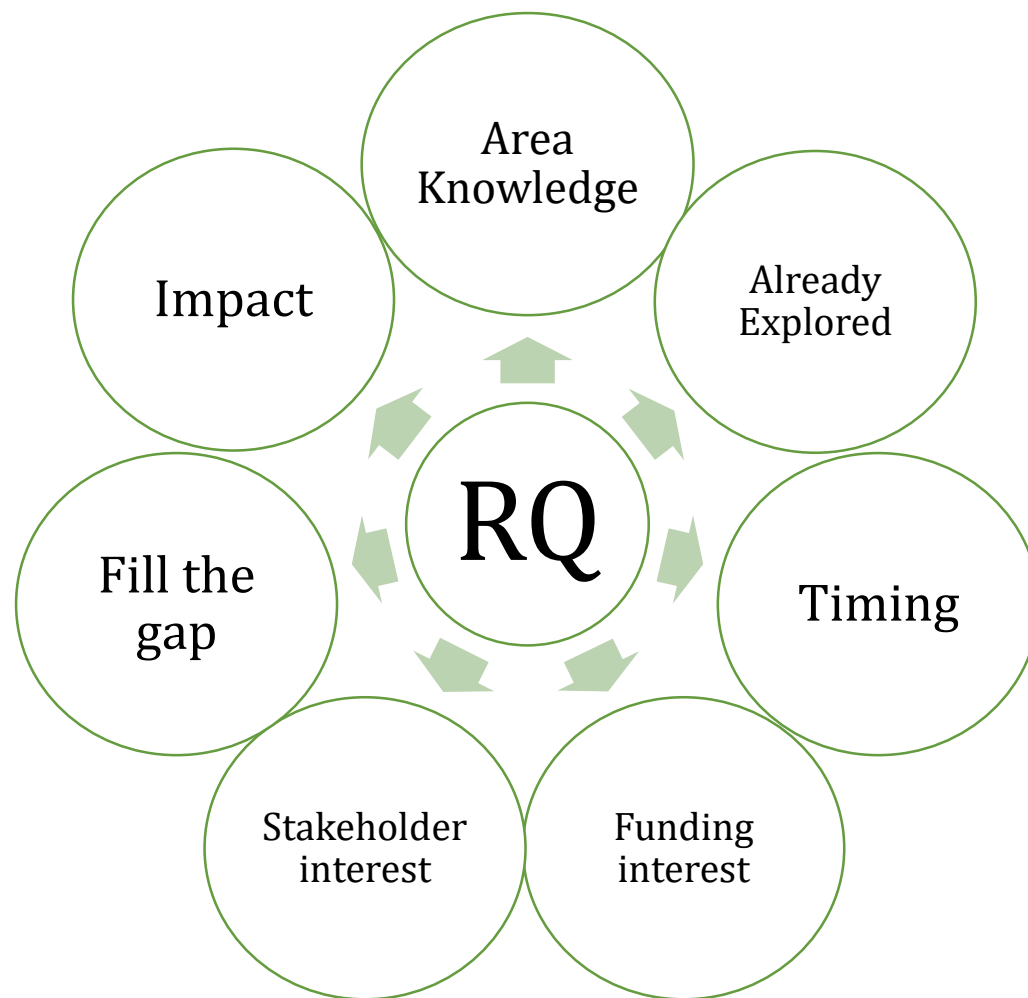
O

Steps in developing research questions



- **Step 1:** Choose a General Research Area
- **Step 2:** Find Background Information
- **Step 3:** Translate Your Interest into a Research Question
- **Step 4:** Modify Your Research Question (**FINER/PICO**)

Things to be considered (in developing research questions)





Summary

“How” to develop a good research question

1. Sources
2. Criteria (FINER)
3. Components (PICO)
4. Steps
5. Things to be considered



Common problems with research questions

- Too broad to be manageable
- Too narrow
- Cannot be answered





Evaluation of HIV surveillance system

- What is the completeness, accuracy and timeliness of data from HIV surveillance system in Myanmar?
- What are the facilitators and challenges faced by NAP in implementing HIV surveillance system?
- How is data from HIV surveillance system utilizing in developing the National HIV/AIDS strategy?





Thank you