**METHOD IN NARRATIVE OR SCOPE REVIEWS**

The method adopted for identifying literature in a scope study should achieve broad and in-depth results. Instead of being guided by a very focused research question that lends itself to searching for particular study designs (as might be the case in a systematic review) (PICO), **the scope study method is guided by the requirement to identify all relevant literature regardless of study design.** As researchers become more familiar with the literature, they may want to redefine search terms and conduct more sensitive literature searches. To this end, the researcher may not wish to impose strict limitations on search terms, the identification of relevant studies, or the selection of studies from the outset. The process is not linear but iterative, requiring researchers to engage at each stage reflectively and, when necessary, repeat steps to ensure comprehensive coverage of the literature.

With these differences in mind, the stages of the proposed search framework for conducting a scope study are described:

**Stage 1:** Identify the research question

**Stage 2:** Identify relevant studies

**Stage 3:** Select studies

**Stage 4:** Develop data

**Stage 5:** Compare, summarize, and communicate results.

For a deeper dive into the methodology of a narrative or scope review, it is suggested to review: Arksey H, O'Malley L. Scoping studies: towards a methodological framework, International Journal of Social Research Methodology, 2005;8:1, 19-32, DOI:

10.1080/1364557032000119616.