## Part One

Describe your areas of focus, in your own words.

| General Issues | |
|---|---|
| 1. What diagnostic issues are you most interested in? <span style="color:red">How are these issues important to the affected patient community?</span> | |
| 2. What do you think could be done differently to improve these issues? | |
| 3. How would these improvements be clinically significant? <span style="color:red">To what extent would these improvements be meaningful to patients?</span> | |

## Part Two

You may have identified several diagnostic areas in need of improvement, but in this step we'll prioritize to arrive at a single issue.  Which of your diagnostic issues is most likely to lead to substantial improvement in the quality and outcome of healthcare delivery in the next five years?  When you've identified that single issue, you can begin filling out the table on the right, based on some of the ideas and concept you generated above.

| General Issues | | | Single Issue | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.  What diagnostic issues are you most interested in? How are these issues important to the affected patient community? | | ⟶ | 1.  What diagnostic issue are you working to solve and what is the importance to the patient community? | |
| 2.  What do you think could be done differently to improve these issues? | | ⟶ | 2. What intervention could be tested to try to combat this problem? | |
| 3.  How would these improvements be clinically significant? To what extent would these improvements be meaningful to patients? | | ⟶ | 3.  What outcomes that are meaningful to patients could be measured to determine improvement? | . |

**Part Three**

Finally, we will transition from your single issue description to the scientific "PICOTS" format.

| Technical  Description | | | PICOTS Format | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.  What diagnostic issue are you working to solve and what is the importance to the patient community? | | | P: What is the patient population? | |
| 2. What intervention could be tested to try to combat this problem? | | | I: What is the intervention?<br><br>C:  To what will you compare the intervention? | |
| 3.  What outcomes that are meaningful to patients could be measured to determine improvement? | | | O:  What are the outcomes you are seeking?<br><br>T:  In what timeframe?<br><br>S:  In what setting? | |

## Part Four

Now that you have your PICOTS statement, we can drill down into the specifics of your proposed study.

**P (Patient Population):**

- Do you already have connections to this community?  If yes, are they willing to be involved in a study?  If not, how will you connect with the community?  Are there patient advocacy, faith-based, or community organizations you may want to partner with?

- Where does the population live?  Are they in a single geographic area or in multiple places around the country?

**I (Intervention):**

- Who will implement the intervention?  Do you have a connection to that community of practitioners?  If not, how will you form a connection with the community?

- In what institution or system does the intervention need to be implemented?  Do you have a connection to an institution or health system in which the intervention can be implemented?

**C (Comparison):**

- Is this comparison already widely used?

- Are the intervention and comparison viable and acceptable to the patient community?

**O (Outcomes):**

- How will you measure these outcomes?  Does the method or tool you want to use already exist?

- Is this outcome important and meaningful to the patient community?

**T(Timing):**

- How long will the intervention need to be implemented before you expect to start seeing results?

- Is this amount of time reasonable/feasible to the patient community?

**S (Setting):**

- In what setting (clinic, hospital, academic institution, etc.) will the study take place?

- Is this setting accessible and welcoming to the patient community?