

The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) is updating the 2010 Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Glucocorticoid Osteoporosis using Grade methodology. In this methodology, the literature search is based on PICO questions (Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcomes), in which multiple populations with varying risk factors are defined and the outcomes (benefits and harms) of two interventions are compared.

The PICO questions that will inform the literature search were developed by the ACR Committee charged with the update of the guidelines and were posted for public comment on the ACR website on 9/22/2015. The Core Committee reviewed the comments and edited and expanded the PICO questions to address them. We added PICO questions comparing lifestyle modification to calcium and vitamin D, therapeutic options for premenopausal women and men who do not have very low bone mass, and clarified the definitions of invasive dental procedures and non-healing fractures. We received comments about the specific fetal risks of bisphosphonates and other treatments. There will be a literature search about those risks to address the PICO questions with premenopausal women.

Some of the public comments addressed issues that were outside the scope of this project including questions about special populations with multiple, complicated risk factors and the optimal level of vitamin D in people with or at risk for glucocorticoid induced osteoporosis. Some of these issues have been addressed by other groups.* Other comments pertained to the challenges clinicians face obtaining insurance coverage for fracture risk assessment and osteoporosis treatment. While not within the scope of these guidelines, this issue is relevant to the implementation of the guidelines and the care of patients. The ACR's Committee on Rheumatologic is an important resource for practice issues.

*The 2011 Report on Dietary Reference Intakes for Calcium and Vitamin D from the Institute of Medicine