| QUESTION DEFINITION | IDENTIFICATION | SCREENING | ELIGIBILITY | INCLUDED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

**Identification**
Create a search protocol;
Query multiple databases
(Ovid, EMBASE, PubMed);
Remove duplicates

**Screening**
Examine Abstracts, and
reject all documents that
are not relevant to the
question

**Eligibility**
Examine the full document
text to decide whether the
paper should be included,
or not.

- Once documents (citations) meet the eligibility criteria, researchers determine if they should be *included* or *excluded* from the review

- Included documents are used to synthesis the recommendation of a systematic review

# Undertaking a Systematic Review

- Creating a systematic review follows a **strict protocol**

- Medical researchers formulate a **search search** strategy as a component of the protocol that defines:

   1. What will be included in the review, and what won't be *(i.e. relevance criteria)*

   2. What sources will be used *(i.e. databases that will be searched)*

   3. What queries will be issued to each source *(i.e. queries issued to the database)*