1. **Bottom Line.**

   This section should be no more than 2-3 sentences long, but it should have enough detail to convey to the reader the key useful clinical information along with its quality and effectiveness/accuracy. Pretend that this was the only section that someone might read. Think of the bottom line as a sandwich. The “meat” is the take-home message from the study. The rest of the sandwich consists of 2 parts. **NOTE:** When studies come to different conclusions, you will need to take that into account.

   **Part 1.** How effective was the treatment? This should be expressed in numbers. In the case of therapy studies, you should also indicate whether the improvement was statistically significant (indicated by the p-value) and whether it was large enough to be clinically significant too. Special warning: if you still don’t understand the difference between statistical significance and clinical significance/importance, read the document called P Values, Statistical Significance & Clinical Significance.

   **Part 2.** What is the quality of the evidence? Don’t just say that the study was an RCT which is “very high on the evidence pyramid.” In addition to the type of evidence (e.g., systematic review, RCT, double blind RCT, cohort) indicate what you thought of the quality of that evidence. Indicate whether the evidence in general and any particular study was high quality, moderate quality, or low quality. Indicate why you think this.

   **Example of a brief EIP sandwich with all three ingredients:** *In uncomplicated sinusitis, patients shouldn’t be referred for antibiotic therapy. An NNT of 9 was not considered effective enough weighed against the needless exposure to antibiotics. This is based on a 2008 meta-analysis of 9 RCTs. Journal of Family practice gave this practice tip an A level recommendation.*

2. **Study Type(s).** Check the type of studies that your article summarizes or critiques.

3. Indicate what grouping of search terms you used. Also cite which of the various sources were most helpful for this particular question.
4. **Summary of the evidence.**

   **Part 1 Brief description of the numbers and types of studies your summary is based on.** Be sure to report the size of the test population(s) from the various studies included and exactly what the intervention and control groups were (depending on the type of evidence).

   **Part 2 Cite the therapeutic effectiveness.**
   Address each of the following (if some information is not contained in the article, indicate “not reported”; if it doesn’t apply as in the case of a cohort study, indicate “N/A”):
   - When reporting therapeutic results, be sure to make a distinction between statistical significance and clinical significance.
   - Present quantitative results for each claim. For therapy studies results must be reported as change in median pain or disability scores, effect size, NNTs, odds ratios and/or risk reduction depending on what’s in the article).
   - Sometimes a strength of recommendation rating is also given. You should cite it. Be sure to explain any rating system used.
   - Any side effects should also be cited.
   - Note: In all cases, include confidence intervals (or standard deviations) if they were reported.

   **Part 3 Cite the strength of the evidence and strength of any recommendations that you discovered.** Cite the type of evidence it is based on (RCT? cohort study? clinical opinion)? But you must also cite the quality of that study if it is known (or can be determined). Include quality score, overall estimation of high quality or low quality, strength of recommendation, etc. If the evidence is of low quality explain why.

   **If you are including information from a systematic review, include**
   - what databases used
   - time period covered
   - how studies were assessed for quality (or were they)
   - number of studies & patients included.
   - Whether the systematic review itself was well done (e.g., broad enough search? Assessed quality of the evidence?)

   **If you are including information from a clinical guideline, include**
   - Strength of recommendation
   - Level of evidence

5. **Clinical Application.** Indicate whether you would apply this treatment/test in practice. Explain whether you think
   - The evidence is strong enough to trust
   - Is there sufficient similarity to the patients studied—clinical applicability (e.g., severity of condition, practice setting, age, gender)?
   - Is the application practical (cost, skill level required)?

6. **References.** Cite the key study or studies you are basing your bottom line on.

7. **Approximate time to complete the lit search?** And **Approximate time to complete the CAT?**