**Randomised controlled trial (RCT)**
2 or more groups, random allocation

Possible participants randomly allocated to either

- Intervention group
- Control group

**Controlled clinical trial (CCT)**
As for a RCT but the allocation was quasi-random (eg. alternation, date of birth, patient identifier)

Possible participants quasi-randomly allocated to either

- Intervention group
- Control group

**Controlled before and after study (CBA)**
3 or more groups but allocation to control or intervention was not random, and there are at least 2 control groups.

Possible participants non-randomly allocated to either

- Intervention group = one or more than one group
- Control group = must be more than one group

Note: EPOC has recently changed the policy about inclusion of CBA studies with only one intervention site. Specific details about design criteria can be found at the website (www.epoc.cochrane.org)

**Interrupted time series (ITS)**
For assessing a trend over time. No control group but must have a clear point in time that intervention was introduced, plus 3 data points before and after the intervention.

- Time 1
- Time 2
- Time 3
- Intervention introduced
  - Time 4
  - Time 5
  - Time 6

If none of these designs then paper is EXCLUDED.