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## Clinical Inquiry Question Development Checklist

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# Clinical Inquiry Question Development Checklist

- Problem / Issue / Initial Question:**  
If you have an idea/solution in mind, what problem are you addressing?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Why is this a problem? What data/measures or evidence/practice observations could be used to show this is an issue/problem? (*Internal Evidence*)**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Describe current practice related to your problem. Include any key observations, and/or processes in place such as audits, checklists, EMR documentation, etc. relevant to the problem.**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Is there an established way of addressing this problem that is based on evidence?**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Talked with nurse manager, nurse clinician, educator, or director.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Checked for available hospital and/or unit procedures/policies/protocols</b>																				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Talked with hospital/subject matter experts (SME)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Checked for practice guidelines:</b>																				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Checked for systematic review/meta-analysis or Other Types of Evidence</b> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 5px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td>PubMed/Medline or OVID MEDLINE</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>EMBASE</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>CINAHL</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>Cochrane Database of Sys. Rev.</td></tr> </table>		PubMed/Medline or OVID MEDLINE		EMBASE		CINAHL		Cochrane Database of Sys. Rev.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 5px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td>ECRI Guidelines Trust</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>TRIP Database</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>Professional Organizations. <i>(ex. AORN, AACN)</i></td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>Scientific Societies <i>(ex. American Heart Assoc., American Cancer Soc)</i></td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>Point of Care Tools <i>(ex. Up to Date, Clinical Key)</i></td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>US Preventative Services Task Force</td></tr> </table>		ECRI Guidelines Trust		TRIP Database		Professional Organizations. <i>(ex. AORN, AACN)</i>		Scientific Societies <i>(ex. American Heart Assoc., American Cancer Soc)</i>		Point of Care Tools <i>(ex. Up to Date, Clinical Key)</i>		US Preventative Services Task Force
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# Clinical Inquiry Question Development Checklist

**Identify Subject Matter Experts and Those Affected by the Potential Initiative or Project (Stakeholders)**

Need to talk with these people or departments for insight or to find evidence; they also may be potential teammates. Recommend documenting who you spoke to, when the topic was discussed and what was learned.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Consider the Appropriateness of the Question (Feasibility)**

Things to consider when it comes to the potential initiative or project. The answers to these questions need to be identified to ensure success.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Is the problem/issue/topic within the scope of nursing practice?</b></p> <p>If the answer is no, you will need to team up with those who are part of the clinical practice. If unable, it is best to find another topic to pursue if attempting to launch an EBP project/initiative.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>What hospital patient safety goal or initiative does the problem align with?</b></p> <p>Identify the specific goal/initiative: _____</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Time</b></p> <p>How much time do you think is needed to explore this topic through implementation?</p> <p>Do you and your team have the time to devote to exploring this topic and following through on implementation?</p> <p>Is there a hospital resource or team that you could partner with to maximize your time?</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>Does the organization have the tests, equipment, and other resources needed to implement this intervention?</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Cost / Return on Investment (ROI)</b></p> <p>What do you expect the costs of the practice change to be, and what are the potential cost savings for the organization?</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Team Identified</b></p> <p>Have you identified individuals to assist you with this initiative/project? Does this group represent perspectives of more than one discipline if your topic affects other disciplines? Be sure to get a commitment that those identified are willing to assist.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

# Clinical Inquiry Question Development Checklist

**Constructing Your Clinical Question**

Start with a background question (broad) and move towards a foreground question (focused – PICO format)

**Background Question**

Provides general information that enables one to gain a greater understanding and allows one to understand the options or possibilities when it comes to addressing a topic. Tend to have two components: A question root (who, what, when, etc.) with a verb followed by a disorder, test, treatment, etc.

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**Foreground Question – The Clinical Question**

A focused question that asks something specific to make an informed clinical decision or action. It should not be directional.

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**Question Templates for Asking PICOT Questions**

**Intervention**

In \_\_\_\_\_ (P), how does \_\_\_\_\_ (I) compared to \_\_\_\_\_ (C) affect \_\_\_\_\_ (O) within \_\_\_\_\_ (T)?

**ETIOLOGY**

Are \_\_\_\_\_ (P), who have \_\_\_\_\_ (I) compared with those without \_\_\_\_\_ (C) at \_\_\_\_\_ risk for/of \_\_\_\_\_ (O) over \_\_\_\_\_ (T)?

**DIAGNOSIS OR DIAGNOSTIC TEST**

In \_\_\_\_\_ (P) are/is \_\_\_\_\_ (I) compared to \_\_\_\_\_ (C) more accurate in diagnosing \_\_\_\_\_ (O)

**PROGNOSIS / PREDICTION**

In (For) \_\_\_\_\_ (P), how does \_\_\_\_\_ (I) compared to \_\_\_\_\_ (C) influence \_\_\_\_\_ (O) during/over \_\_\_\_\_ (T)?

**MEANING**

How do \_\_\_\_\_ (P) with \_\_\_\_\_ (I) perceive \_\_\_\_\_ (O) during \_\_\_\_\_ (T)?

Melnik, B. M., & Fineout-Overholt, E. (2011). Evidence-based practice in nursing & healthcare: A guide to best practice. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

# Clinical Inquiry Question Development Checklist

## Searching the Literature & The PICO Format. (*External Evidence*)

P (Problem, Patient, Population, Program)	I (Intervention)	C (Comparison)  What You are Doing Now	O (Outcome)	T (Type of Question)	T (Type of Study)

- Identifying the *type of question* and *type of study* can help to focus on the evidence that is most appropriate to answer a particular clinical question.

### The Type of Question Can Determine the Type of Studies Needed:

Always want a **clinical practice guideline**, **systematic review** or **meta-analysis** when possible. However, most of the time, you will find only primary studies.

Type of Question	Best Type of Evidence / Study
<b>Intervention/Therapy:</b> How well do interventions or treatments work in respect to an outcome. May address harm, viability, or cost.	Randomized Control Trial (RCT) or Systematic/Review Meta-Analysis of RCTs
<b>Prevention:</b> How to prevent a disease or condition	RCT/ Cohort Study / Case Control / Systematic Review / Meta-Analysis
<b>Prognosis / Prediction:</b> How to estimate the patient's likely clinical course over time and anticipate the likely complications of the disease or condition.	Cohort Study / Case Control / Case Series or Case Report / Synthesis or Cohort or Case Control Studies / Meta- Synthesis
<b>Diagnosis or Diagnostic Test:</b> How to select the mechanism or diagnostic tests to determine the most accurate outcome.	Blind RCT Compared to Gold Standard (Best Treatment or Test) / Systematic Review / Meta-Analysis of RCTs
<b>Etiology:</b> Identify a factor, process, or condition associated or correlated with an outcome or disease.	RCT / Cohort Study / Case Control / Meta-Synthesis
<b>Meaning:</b> How an experience influences an outcome, the phenomena, or health care.	Meta-Synthesis / Qualitative Studies
<b>Cost Analysis:</b> Economic costs of all facets of an intervention or disease treatment.	Economic Analysis.

*Users' guides to the medical literature A manual for evidence-based clinical practice* (2008). In Rennie D. (Ed.), McGraw-Hill Medical: McGraw-Hill Medical: New York.

# Clinical Inquiry Question Development Checklist

## Search Terms / Concepts:

PICO Components	Primary Search Terms	Alternative Terms
P		
I		
C		
O		

## Possible Limits to Apply:

**Gender:**

- Male  
 Female

**Age Groups: (May Differ Between Databases)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Ages                | <input type="checkbox"/> Adolescent (13-18yrs.)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newborn (< 1 month)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult (19 - 44 yrs.)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infant (1 - 23 months)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Aged (45-64 yrs.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-School (2 - 5 yrs.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly (65 - 79 yrs.)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child (6-12 yrs.)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Aged (> 80 yrs.)         |

**Languages:**

- English Only  
 Other Languages \_\_\_\_\_

**Species:**

- Humans  
 Animals

**Years Covered:**

- Last 5 Years  
 Last 10 Years  
 Year Range \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

## Known Authors or Researchers in the Field:

## Citations Found That are Related to the Topic:

## Useful Keywords or Subject Headings by Database:

If you find a good article, search for it in PubMed, CINAHL or another database that has a controlled vocabulary and see how it is indexed. This will allow you to find terms that may be useful to find more articles on the same topic.

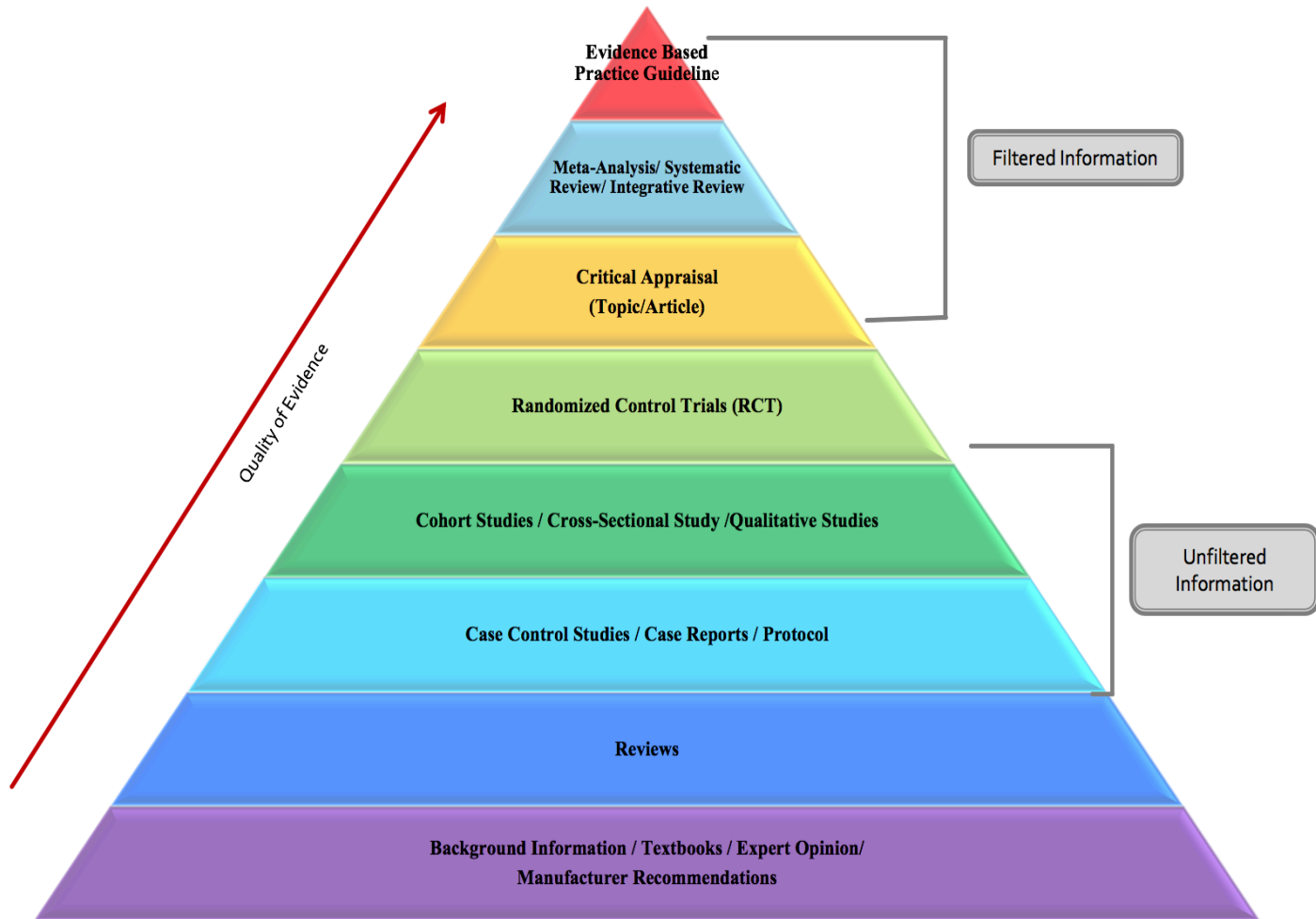
Database #1:	Database #2:	Database #3:



# Clinical Inquiry Question Development Checklist

## EBP Evidence Pyramid

Try to find evidence towards the top of the pyramid and work your way down.



Notes:

# Clinical Inquiry Question Development Checklist

## Appraisal of the Evidence Found – Is There Enough?

Appraising the evidence when it comes to EBP, ideally, should be done as a team with more than one person appraising each article or piece of evidence. Each person has a unique perspective based on their knowledge and experience, which may result in varying strengths regarding evidence appraisal.

Proceed with Evidence Based Practice Initiative/Project	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Questions / Assistance:</b> Contact Your Nurse Clinician, Nurse Manager or the Department, Council or Committee that Supports EBP.</li> <li>• <b>Next Steps:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Finalize Team Members &amp; Schedule Meetings</li> <li>○ Assess translation of evidence into practice setting</li> <li>○ Gather Pre-Intervention / Pre-Project Data</li> <li>○ Create Action Plan to Implement Change</li> <li>○ Implement Change on a Small Scale (Pilot Project)</li> <li>○ Evaluate Pilot and Determine if Ready for Full Scale Change</li> <li>○ Implement Practice Change</li> <li>○ Gather Post Intervention / Project Data</li> <li>○ Report Results to Decision Makers</li> <li>○ Adopt Change &amp; Identify Next Steps</li> <li>○ Disseminate – Poster, Paper, Presentation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Proceed with Performance Improvement Initiative/Project	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>Evidence Not Implemented</i>  <i>Not Meeting Benchmarks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Questions / Assistance:</b> Contact Your Nurse Clinician, Nurse Manager or the Department, Council or Committee that Supports Performance Improvement</li> <li>• <b>Next Steps:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify and Finalize Team</li> <li>○ Work through the PDSA cycle (see Clinical Inquiry Process Diagram)</li> <li>○ Report Results to Decision Makers</li> <li>○ Adopt Change &amp; Identify Next Steps</li> <li>○ Disseminate – Poster, Paper, Presentation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Proceed with Research Project	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Questions / Assistance:</b> Contact Your Nurse Clinician, Nurse Manager or the Department, Council or Committee that Supports Research</li> <li>• <b>Next Steps:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contact the Department, Council or Committee that Supports Research.</li> <li>○ Find or Be Assigned a Mentor</li> <li>○ Identify Resources Needed and Funding Options</li> <li>○ Formulate IRB Proposal and Submit for Approval</li> <li>○ Implement Research Protocol</li> <li>○ Collect and Analyze Data</li> <li>○ Determine Impact or Outcome(s) of the Study, Potential for Translation, and Identify Next Steps.</li> <li>○ Disseminate – Poster, Paper, Presentation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>





# Clinical Inquiry Question Development Checklist

**Notes:**