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The Clinical Inquiry Process Diagram Question Development Checklist

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The Clinical Inquiry Question Development Checklist

☐ ## Problem / Issue / Initial Question:
What problem are you addressing? If you have an idea/solution in mind list it, but remember it will need to be supported with evidence to be implemented.

_____

_____

☐ ## Why is this a problem?
What data/measures or evidence/practice observations could be used to show this is an issue/problem?
(Internal Evidence)

_____

_____

☐ ## Is there an evidence-based approach that has been established for addressing this problem?
There may be an existing evidence-based guideline, hospital protocol, or other guidance that supports the process or procedure being carried out. Best to check before moving forward.

☐ **Talked with nurse manager, nurse clinician, educator, or director.**	☐ **Checked for available hospital and/or unit procedures/policies/protocols** *(Evidenced Based?)*
☐ **Talked with hospital/subject matter experts (SME)** (*Wound care team, Infection Control, etc.*)	☐ **Checked for practice guidelines:**
☐ **Consult with external subject matter experts** *(May Not Always Be Applicable)*	_____ ECRI Guidelines Trust _____ Professional Organizations. *(ex. AORN, AACN)* _____ Scientific Societies (*ex. American Heart Assoc., American Cancer Soc.*) _____ Point of Care Tools (*ex. Up to Date, Clinical Key*) _____ US Preventative Services Task Force _____ TRIP Database _____ PubMed / OVID MEDLINE _____ CINAHL

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☐ **Identify Stakeholders (Those Affected by the Potential Initiative or Project)**
Need to talk with these people or departments for insight or to find evidence (both internal and external); they also may be potential teammates. Recommend documenting who you spoke to, what was discussed, and what was learned.

_____   _____

_____   _____

☐ **Consider the Appropriateness of the Question (Ethical Review & 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.

☐	**Is the problem/issue/topic within the scope of nursing practice?** 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.
☐	**What hospital patient safety goal or initiative does the problem align with?** Identify the specific goal/initiative: _____
☐	**Time** • How much time do you think is needed to explore this topic through implementation? • Do you and your team have the time to devote to exploring this topic and following through on implementation? • Is there a hospital resource or team that you could partner with to maximize your time?
☐	**Resources** Does the organization have the tests, equipment, and other resources needed to implement this intervention?
☐	**Cost / Return on Investment (ROI)** What do you expect the costs of the practice change to be, and what are the potential cost savings for the organization?
☐	**Data Collection & Protection of Patient Health Information** What data will need to be collected to measure the effect of the intervention? Who in the organization may need to assist in obtaining this data? Are steps being taken to protect patient health information?
☐	**Team Identified** Have you assembled a group of individuals to support your initiative/project? Does this group include representatives from multiple disciplines if your topic has interdisciplinary implications? Make sure to confirm that those identified are willing to contribute.

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☐ **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.

_____

_____

Foreground Question – The Clinical Question
A focused question that asks something specific to make an informed clinical decision or action. Avoid phrasing the question in a way that suggests a particular answer or implies a desired outcome.

_____

_____

Question Templates for Asking PICOT Questions *(Do not Directionalize the Question)*

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

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☐ **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 (Time) Not Always Applicable	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
Intervention/Therapy: 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
Prevention: How to prevent a disease or condition	RCT/ Cohort Study / Case Control / Systematic Review / Meta-Analysis
Prognosis / Prediction: 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
Diagnosis or Diagnostic Test: 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
Etiology: Identify a factor, process, or condition associated or correlated with an outcome or disease.	RCT / Cohort Study / Case Control / Meta-Synthesis
Meaning: How an experience influences an outcome, the phenomena, or health care.	Meta-Synthesis / Qualitative Studies
Cost Analysis: 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.

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Search Terms / Concepts:

PICO Components	Primary Search Terms	Alternative Terms
P		
I		
C		
O		

Possible Limits to Apply:

Gender:
____ Male
____ Female

Species:
____ Humans
____ Animals

Age Groups: (May Differ Between Databases)
____ All Ages
____ Newborn (< 1 month)
____ Infant (1 - 23 months)
____ Pre-School (2 - 5 yrs.)
____ Child (6-12 yrs.)

____ Adolescent (13-18yrs.)
____ Adult (19 - 44 yrs.)
____ Middle Aged (45-64 yrs.)
____ Elderly (65 - 79 yrs.)
____ Aged (> 80 yrs.)

Languages:
English Only
Other Languages _____

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.

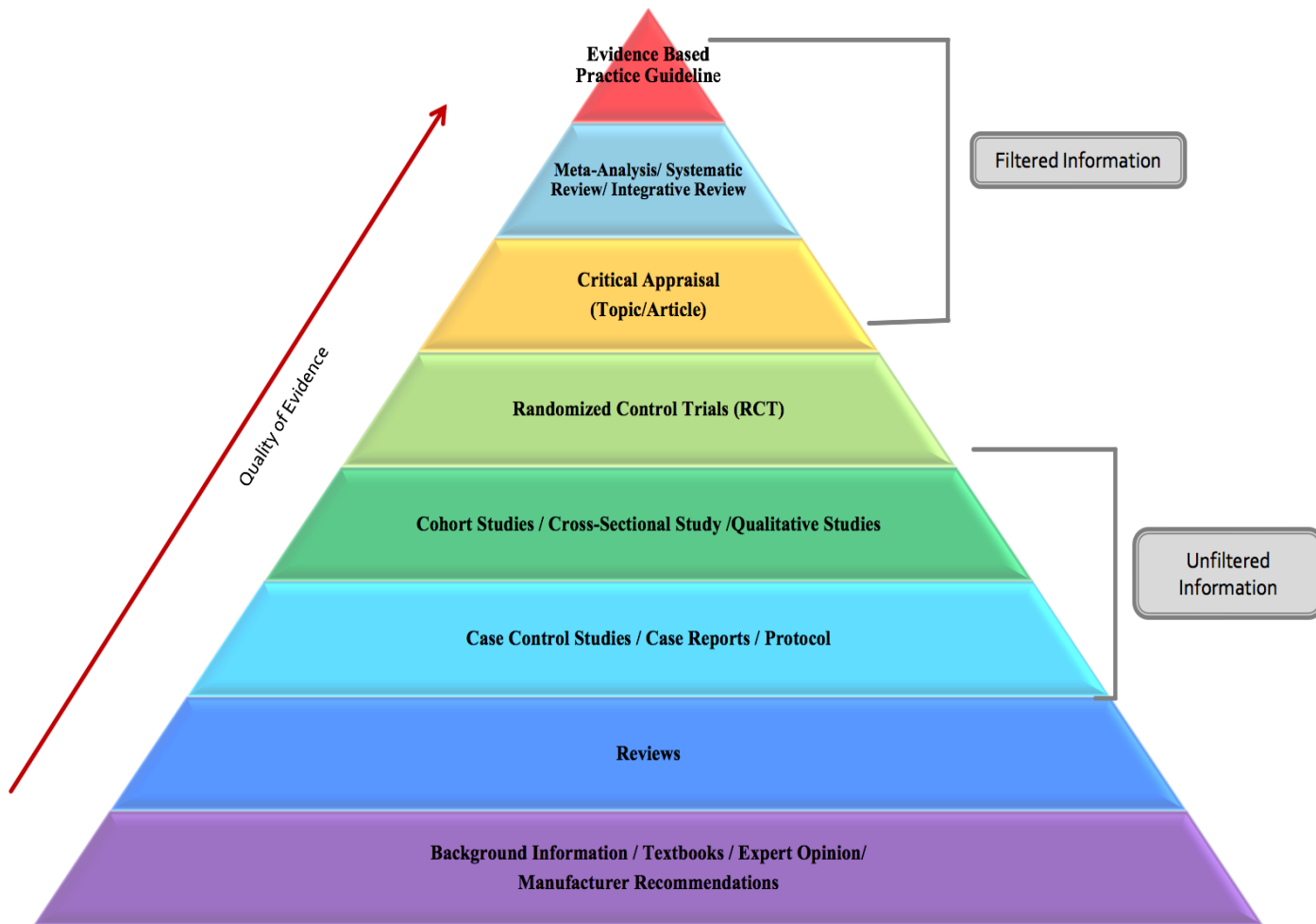| Database #1: _____	Database #2: _____	Database #3: _____

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EBP Evidence Pyramid

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

Quality of Evidence

Evidence Based
Practice Guideline

Meta-Analysis/ Systematic
Review/ Integrative Review

Critical Appraisal
(Topic/Article)

Randomized Control Trials (RCT)

Cohort Studies / Cross-Sectional Study /Qualitative Studies

Case Control Studies / Case Reports / Protocol

Reviews

Background Information / Textbooks / Expert Opinion/
Manufacturer Recommendations

Filtered Information

Unfiltered Information

Notes:

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☐ **Appraisal of the Evidence Found – Is There Enough?**

When it comes to evidence-based practice (EBP), it's best to appraise the evidence as a team with multiple individuals evaluating each article or piece of evidence. Each team member brings a distinct perspective based on their knowledge and experience, which can lead to varying levels of expertise when it comes to evaluating evidence.

Proceed with Evidence Based Practice Initiative/Project	

☐
Yes
	• **Questions / Assistance:** Contact Your Nurse Clinician, Nurse Manager or the Department, Council, or Committee that Supports EBP.
	• **Next Steps:**
	    ○ Finalize Team Members & Schedule Meetings
	    ○ Plan & Assess the Translation of Evidence into Practice
	        ▪ Feasibility
	        ▪ Ethical Considerations
	    ○ Gather Pre-Initiative / Pre-Project Data
	    ○ Develop Plan & Implement Change (Incremental Roll Out)
	        ▪ Tap into Performance Improvement Resources for Help
	    ○ Gather Post-Initiative Data
	    ○ Evaluate Outcome(s) or Review Process
	        ▪ Success = Proceed
	        ▪ Issues = Adjustments and Redo
	    ○ Report Results to Decision-Makers & Stakeholders
	    ○ Adopt Practice Change & Develop Sustainability Plan
	    ○ Identify Next Steps and Knowledge Gaps
	    ○ Disseminate (*Internal and External*)
	        ▪ Posters, Presentations, Manuscripts, Social Media/Digital Platforms

Proceed with Performance Improvement Initiative/Project	

☐
Yes
Evidence Not Fully Implemented
 	
Benchmarks or Metrics Not Met
	• **Questions / Assistance:** Contact Your Nurse Clinician, Nurse Manager or the Department, Council or Committee that Supports Performance Improvement
	• **Next Steps:**
	    ○ Identify and Finalize Team
	    ○ Work through the PDSA cycle (see Clinical Inquiry Process Diagram)
	        ▪ Be sure to take feasibility into account and protection of patient health information
	    ○ Adapt, Adopt, or Abandon - Based on Results
	    ○ Report Results to Decision Makers
	    ○ Identify Next Test or Steps
	    ○ Disseminate – Poster, Paper, Presentation, Social Media/Digital Platforms

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Proceed with Research Project	
☐ No	**Questions / Assistance:** Contact Your Nurse Clinician, Nurse Manager or the Department, Council or Committee that Supports Research **Next Steps:** - Contact the Department, Council or Committee that Supports Research. - Find or Be Assigned a Mentor - Finalize Team Members & Schedule Meetings - Identify Resources Needed & Funding Options - Design Protocol - Methods - Sample Size - Data Management Plan - Submit Protocol to IRB for Approval - Implement Research Protocol (*Upon IRB Approval*) - Collect and Analyze Data - Consider Impact or Outcome(s) of the Study, Potential for Translation, and Identify Next Steps. - Disseminate – Poster, Paper, Presentation, Social Media/Digital Platforms