WEEK 1

Identifying a Practice Problem in Need of Improvement

In this week’s Discussion, you shared your experiences with health care practice problems as a consumer and/or as a practitioner. Now, consider your current practice setting and think about something specific and relevant to your practice setting that you would like to see improved or changed. Interview a key leader in your practice setting who can confirm that your practice problem is one that should be addressed to enhance delivery or performance in the field. It is important to remember from the beginning that your practice problem must be **measurable**, and that you identify data that suggests a problem exists, and although this comes up more specifically in Week 2, it is important to consider this from the start.

This will be the problem discussed in your Practice Experience Project, Capstone Paper, and Storyboard.

**WEEK 2**

# Applying Measurement Tools to a Practice Problem

Conduct a collaboration interview with two or three key leaders in your practice setting to determine the measures for your practice problem and associated challenges impacting measurement for your practice problem (include confidentiality, anonymity, access issues, etc.). Perform an existing evidence review on your practice problem and search for evidence that demonstrates how your practice problem is measured across the country.

#### **By Day 4**

**Post** a description of the measures identified from the interviews, the challenges to obtaining the data that were discussed, and a summary of how this quality indicator is measured in the literature. Discuss any gaps in the data that were identified and additional sources that might be needed to obtain this data. Be sure to support your practice problem with the literature that indicates the relevance of this problem for nursing practice. Provide evidence from practice and data that is available.

#### Complete a review of current nursing evidence for your practice problem. To develop a plan for your quality improvement project you will need to find out what interventions have been successful when applied to your practice problem. The evidence-based process is a problem solving approach where you will assess research, clinical guidelines, expert opinions, and other relevant information and incorporate the results into your quality improvement project. Search for a minimum of five evidence-based sources related to your practice problem. You must include two-three research studies in your review.  Synthesize in your own words the evidence that supports your identified practice problem. For example, if your practice problem is reducing patient falls, you will summarize what the evidence you have found has to say about falls and how researchers have identified interventions that promote a decrease in the number of patient falls. In this example, the evidence will likely show that hourly rounding, non skid slippers, a fall risk assessment and low beds are all interventions that the research has shown to improve patient outcomes related to falls in a healthcare setting.

# WEEK 3

# Applying Process Improvement Models

Choose a Quality Improvement Model from Chapter 5 in the Spath (2018) textbook, and apply this model to your practice problem. Please do not choose Lean or Six Sigma as your quality model unless you have an expert in these quality models in your organization to guide you through the process.

PDSA (p.124).  
RCI (p.127).  
FOCUS PDCA (p.128).  
FADE (p.129).

#### **By Day 4**

**Post** a Discussion entry describing the model that you selected and how each step of the model will be used to develop the plan for the Practice Experience Project. Continue to collaborate with the selected individuals in your practice environment as needed in the development of the Practice Experience Project, and share this information with your group.

# Assignment: Capstone Paper, Part I: Introduction, Analysis of Existing Evidence, and Quality Improvement Process

The Assignment you will submit this week will combine the work you completed in Week 1 (Introduction) and Week 2 (Analysis of Existing Evidence) and this week’s assignment, the Quality Improvement Process. These three sections, when combined, will complete Part I of your Capstone Paper.

**To prepare for this Assignment:**

* Review the [Capstone Paper Assignment Guide](https://class.content.laureate.net/content/dam/laureate/laureate-academics/wal/bs-nurs/nurs-4220/artifacts/USW1_NURS_4220_capstonePaperAssignmentGuide.docx)
* Locate the most current version of your Week 1 and Week 2 Assignment. You will add this section to that document.
* Review the [Academic Writing Expectations Checklist Capstone Level](https://class.content.laureate.net/content/dam/laureate/laureate-academics/wal/bs-nurs/nurs-4220/artifacts/AWELevel4000CapstoneWritingExpectations.docx)
  + Note the new expectations for ***Use of evidence****and****Credit to Source***
  + Use a Scholarly Voice
    - <http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/scholarlyvoice>
    - <http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/webinars/scholarlywriting#s-lg-box-2773859>
  + Review the Walden University Writing Center webpage: [Using Evidence: Synthesis](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/evidence/synthesis)
* Review the Week 3 Assignment Rubric

***Remember:*** Each section of the Capstone Paper must meet the Academic Writing Expectations for the Capstone Level.

**For this Assignment**

* Describe the quality improvement process and the Quality model that will be used as a basis for the practice problem. Include a description of a quality improvement tool(s) that you will use in your quality improvement plan. See Spath, (2018) chapter 6 for examples.
* Explain why the specific process was selected and document your explanation with references.

**For the Week 3 Assignment, you will combine your Week 1, 2 and 3 assignments and submit a 3-4-page paper that addresses the following:**

* **Practice Problem (Completed in Week 1)**
  + State the practice problem in measurable terms.
  + State the data that suggests a practice problem exists
  + Include a purpose statement.
* **Analysis of the Existing Evidence (Completed in Week 2)**
  + Summarize the findings from the evidence analysis that support your practice problem. Include minimum of at least 5 evidence-based practice sources that support your practice problem. Identify research, clinical guidelines, expert opinions, and other relevant information. You must include two-three research studies in your analysis. Using your own words synthesize the evidence that supports your identified practice problem. There should be no quotes or personal opinions included in this section.
* **Quality Improvement Process (Completed this Week)**(Approximately 2-3 paragraphs)
  + Describe the quality improvement process and the quality model that will be used as a basis for the practice problem. This is not your entire quality improvement plan, only a description of the quality improvement process and the quality model you chose. You will develop your specific quality improvement plan in week 4. Include a description of a quality improvement tool(s) that you will use in your quality improvement plan. See Spath, (2018) chapter 6 for examples.
  + Explain why the specific process was selected and document your explanation with references.
  + Conclusion