

NURS 610 Translational Scholarship for Evidenced-Based Practice

Guidelines for Initial Assignment and Focus Paper

The purpose of quality improvement (QI) is to use a systematic, data-guided approach to improve processes or outcomes. Principles and strategies involved in QI have evolved from organizational philosophies of total quality management and continuous quality improvement.

Bear in mind that the purpose of your Review of Literature Paper (Paper Two in this course) is to study and summarize literature addressing a problem area broadly. This ROL, then, is designed to enable the choice of a feasible quality improvement project that can become your Capstone Project.

Reference

Conner, B. T. (2014). Differentiating research, evidence-based practice, and quality improvement. *American Nurse Today*, 9(6), 26-31.

Assignment Objectives

1. Identify a preceptor and colleagues who will guide and advise the student during the capstone project.
2. Identify a potential quality improvement project and share this analysis with a potential preceptor or someone in leadership.
3. Determine an appropriate quality improvement project (capstone project) problem statement that will guide the review of literature paper.

Focus Paper Assignment Part One (Weeks One through Four of NURS 610)

1. The following is optional and doesn't need to be finalized until the following course: Identify a person who is willing to serve in the role of your preceptor. This should be somebody in a managerial or other leadership role. This person must be willing to help you identify a plausible area of interest for your project and then mentor you as you design and then complete the project in NURS 620 and NURS 630. Be aware that this preceptor might need to change.
2. Consider asking a couple of other colleagues who may be able to help you gather baseline and benchmark data.
3. Together with your preceptor and colleagues, do a SWOT Analysis
4. Identify an area of potential quality improvement. Otherwise stated, identify a patient or process outcome that can be improved in your workplace. Ideas may be sparked by searching the Nursing Intervention Classification system and The National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators. Some links are found in the *Moodle* course room.
5. Begin finding baseline data about the identified problem area.
6. Begin finding benchmark data about the identified problem area.
7. Communicate this information with your professor in the forum provided in the *Moodle* course room.

Focus Paper Assignment Part Two (Week Five of NURS 610)

1. General

- This paper will be about 3-5 pages in length.
- Follow APA guidelines and utilize headings and subheadings.
- This paper will become the introductory section of the review of literature paper.

2. Introduction

- There is no need to include “Introduction” as a heading.
- Introduce the paper by discussing the value of nurses in healthcare and society. An example may be the ongoing trust of nurses evidenced in Gallup polls. Link to a website is in writing week segment for this paper in *Moodle* course room.
- Transition to thoughts about the obligation of nurses to society to uphold this trust and work towards achieving the very best outcomes for our patients.
- Describe your professional practice role and how you contribute to your workplace. What is the relationship of your practice environment to the overall organization? What is the culture of your practice setting as compared to that of the overall organization?

3. SWOT Analysis and Problem Identification (Subtitle)

- Briefly describe your meeting with a potential preceptor or person in leadership to conduct your SWOT analysis and how you identified a potential quality improvement project. Use “SWOT Analysis and Problem Identification” (bolded) as your subtitle
- In a sentence or two, elaborate on each point of your SWOT analysis. As part of this process identify stakeholders in your organization that may impact the implementation of your quality improvement project. Discuss the projected impact of each of those stakeholders. *Note: Not all stakeholders are in administrative positions. Stakeholders include the nurses and other staff that are impacted by EBP.*

4. Potential Quality Improvement Project Identification

- Identify the patient or process outcome you are considering for your quality improvement project (capstone project). Frame it in terms of a guiding question for your review of literature.
- Delve into the problem, its source, characteristics, background and history.
- Discuss the need for change. Citations add credence to the significance of the problem.
- Comment on the alignment of your project idea with organizational priorities.

3. Baseline and Benchmark Data (Subtitle)

- You don’t need specific data. Describe only the data you think you will use and have access to in your organization.
- Identify the **baseline data** (data from YOUR organization related to this issue). If you have already found such data, include them.
- Identify your ideas for the **benchmark data** that you will use to compare with your baseline data. Ideas may be sparked by searching the Nursing Intervention Classification system and online databases of nursing quality indicators. Some links are found in the *Moodle* course room. Your manager or preceptor may be able to guide you to the person in your organization who knows where to find these data.

4. Potential Quality Improvement Project

- In a couple of sentences, summarize the key points of the paper.
- Bear in mind that the purpose of your next paper (The Review of Literature Paper) is to study the broad problem area. Ultimately, this will result in zeroing in on a more narrow problem area that can be addressed in your Capstone Project.

- Develop a guiding question for your Review of Literature Paper. This will become the thesis statement for your paper.
 - *This review of literature will describe the nature and prevalence of _____ (the problem you are addressing.) This review of literature will also include current evidence-based strategies that could be implemented to improve _____ (outcome) in _____ (population or workplace setting.)*

P.S. 8/18/2024