



Module 3 Assessment: Project Area of Interest Form Professional Practice Issue



Chamberlain University

NR-520: Applied Theoretical Foundations, Scientific Inquiry,
and Decision-Making

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Date



NR520 APPLIED THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS, SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY, AND DECISION-MAKING

Module 3 Assessment: Project Area of Interest Form

Professional Practice Issue

Consider your practicum work setting and environment. Complete the following:	
(1)	What issues or problems are you working on or want to work on for your MSN evidence-based practice quality improvement project? How would the Johns Hopkins model be used to support this project process? (This is brainstorming.)
Answer	The issue I am working on or want to work on for my MSN evidence-based practice quality improvement project would be focused on addressing the crucial issue of insufficient safe nurse-to-patient ratios and inadequate staffing on Med-Surg units, causing an increased risk of overall compromised patient safety, leading to potential medical errors, and poor patient outcomes. Rationing of nursing care (RONC) has been associated with poor patient outcomes and is a growing concern in healthcare. RONC refers to the intentional withholding or delay in provision of nursing care essential to maintaining the health and well-being of patients. This can lead to various adverse events, including medication errors, falls, pressure ulcers, and other complications (Uchmanowicz, I., et. al, 2024). The John Hopkins model can be used to support this project process by providing a structured approach to problem-solving and implementation of evidence-based solutions.
(2)	Thinking about these issues or problems, what internal organization data is currently available, tracked, or reviewed? (What is it that indicated to you that this was an issue or problem? Do not drill down to the details; keep it broad. Do you see patterns developing? Such as between 2-4 am most patients between the ages of 65-85 fall.)
Answer	Internal organization data that is currently available on staffing shortages on Med-Surg units, leading to poor patient outcomes, particularly for adult patients, may include metrics such as patient-to-staff ratios, incident reports, quality improvement programs, nursing leadership reports, patient safety dashboards, nurse turnover rates, length of stay, readmission rates, and specific incidents such as medication errors or falls. The patterns seen in this data indicate a correlation between an increased workload and frequency of incidents, which suggests a possible relationship between staffing insufficiency and patient safety concerns. Also, increased workloads can result in burn-out, missed care, and errors, ultimately affecting overall patient safety and care. The data that is being tracked and reviewed can help identify trends and areas needed for improvement in staffing practices, in order to enhance patient safety and quality of care overall. It also allows organizations to gain better understanding of challenges posed by staffing shortages and develop strategies to improve patient outcomes and care, particularly in medical-surgical units. Insufficient nursing staffing is a significant issue on med-surg units due to these units primarily handling a high-volume of patients with varying acuity levels and a multitude of needs, leading to a high demand of nursing care. Due to the increased workload on these units, it leads to potential errors, burnout, increased patient risk and safety, and voluntary turnovers. Voluntary turnover can create additional workloads for remaining nurses, worsen nursing shortages, and negatively affect patients and associated care provider functions. The most