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As a nurse, your patients rely on you to provide them with quality and compassionate care. Of course, no two patients are exactly alike, which means that your care must also be individually tailored to meet each patient's unique needs and circumstances. Using clinical reasoning, nursing professionals can apply their own knowledge, critical thinking
and expertise to provide optimal patient care in changing circumstances. As you can probably imagine, clinical reasoning isn't a skill that nurses master overnight. Instead, it takes careful development and practice over time. With a solid understanding of what clinical reasoning in nursing entails and why it matters, you can take some proactive steps
to advance your own skills and expertise. This could help you provide quality, patient-focused care with confidence. What Is Clinical Reasoning in nursing? Before diving into the important to understand what clinical reasoning is, what it entails, and how it
differs from critical thinking in healthcare. Defining Clinical Reasoning In simplest terms, clinical reasoning refers to the cognitive processes that nursing professionals use to assess, diagnose, and solve patient care problems. One publication in Nurse Education in Practice defines it more specifically as "the process of applying knowledge and
expertise to a clinical situation to develop a solution." In the healthcare field, nurses must constantly process new information with other professionals (including doctors and specialists). Clinical reasoning processes should combine both expertise/knowledge and context with the
understanding that patients' needs can change and evolve over time. Nurses and other healthcare professionals can provide the highest standard of care possible through this patient-centered and dynamic approach. Clinical Reasoning in Nursing: An Example What does clinical reasoning look like in action? Consider a situation where a patient in the
hospital for assessment after a car accident starts suddenly complaining of chest pain and tightness. A nurse using clinical reasoning should act swiftly to assess the patient's symptoms and consult with other healthcare professionals to adjust the treatment plan accordingly. This may include conducting additional testing to rule out the possibility of a
heart attack or other cardiac conditions while continuing to treat any injuries. How Clinical Reasoning Differs From Critical thinking in healthcare are important to note that these terms are not interchangeable. It can be helpful to think of critical thinking as part of the clinical
reasoning process, as nurses must use this skill to interpret data and evaluate patients. However, clinical reasoning is a much more specialized skill that's unique to the healthcare practice. How to Develop Clinical Reasoning is a much more specialized skill that's unique to the healthcare practice. How to Develop Clinical Reasoning is a much more specialized skill that's unique to the healthcare practice.
you can take to advance and build upon these skills throughout the course of your career. While these skills can be developed with hands-on clinical experience, many nurses can benefit from active learning in a formal degree program. Using virtual patients and simulations, nursing professionals can practice evaluating, assessing, and making clinical
judgments to improve their clinical reasoning and critical thinking skills in a safe and controlled environment. Why Clinical reasoning is Critical in Healthcare Clinical nursing may be just one of many skills nurses need to possess to properly care for patients, but it's also among the most important. Specifically, clinical reasoning and problem-solving
in nursing are important because they help nurses adapt and respond to changing situations while continuing to provide patient outcomes. Meanwhile, strong clinical reasoning skills can help nurses gain confidence in their abilities and prepare them for potential
advancement into leadership roles with additional responsibilities. Steps in the Clinical Reasoning Process To better understand how clinical reasoning as a process rather than a standalone skill, nurses (and aspiring nurses) can focus on
improving their own execution and comprehension of each individual step. Step 1: Gathering Patient Information about their patients as possible. This can be done by conducting patient assessments and using that information to pinpoint patterns, trends, and
other data that could be used to inform their clinical judgment. Conducting a Thorough Patient Assessment The process of assessing a patient may vary, but most assessments begin with a quick check-in with the patient's vitals, assessing
their cognitive function, and recording their findings. Recognizing Key Data and Patterns After a patient assessment is performed, nurses should take that information and review their critical thinking and analytical skills to look for patterns, trends, or
other relevant information that might inform their patient care plans. Step 2: Identifying Problems or Potential Risks Another important step in the clinical reasoning process for nurses is to identify any potential problems or risks based on the patient's assessment and other cues. If a patient comes into a doctor's office complaining of ankle pain, for
example, a nurse may speak with the patient about potential causes during the initial exam (such as playing a sport or accidentally twisting the affected ankle). This, combined with reviewing X-rays with a specialist, could lead to a probable sprained ankle diagnosis. By better understanding the patient's problem and its potential risks, nurses can
collaborate with healthcare teams and move on to the next step. Step 3: Developing and Prioritizing Solutions Depending on the patient's diagnosis, the treatment may be obvious and straightforward, but this isn't always the case of a sprained ankle, for instance, the typical treatment would be plenty of rest, ice, compression, and
elevation. For other medical issues, however, nursing professionals may need to think more critically to develop and prioritize treatments based on the patient's unique risk factors, lifestyle, and other details. Step 4: Implementing the Plan of Action Once all healthcare professionals involved in a patient's care are on board with the same treatment
plan, it's time to implement it. This falls not just on nurses, but on doctors and other specialists who may be caring for the patient. Regardless, it's important here for nurses to be in constant communication with healthcare teams to ensure that all parts of the patient's care plan are implemented as needed. Step 5: Evaluating Outcomes and
Reflecting Even after a plan of action is completed, healthcare professionals must continue to use clinical reasoning to assess and evaluate the results of the treatment. In a perfect world, treatment will always meet expectations and deliver the best outcomes to the patient. In reality, however, this isn't always the case. When this occurs, nurses and
healthcare teams should collaborate to assess the results of the treatment and make changes as needed to optimize patient outcomes. Practical Tips to Improve Clinical Reasoning is a skill that must be developed with time and practice, but there are some practical tips that nurses can keep in mind to improve their own clinical
reasoning and critical thinking throughout their careers. Utilizing Evidence-Based Practice Because best practice should rely primarily on the latest research and evidence-based practice that's available in the field. In doing so, nurses can
make better-informed clinical decisions based on evidence rather than their own beliefs or experiences. This can lead to more informed decision-making. Leveraging Case Studies and Simulations can provide valuable and realistic experiences to nurses looking to build upon their clinical reasoning and
critical thinking skills. Case studies, for example, can present nurses with a unique patient case. From there, nurses can practice following the steps of clinical reasoning to reach an appropriate treatment plan based on specific symptoms, medical history, and other details. In some cases, nurses may even have access to realistic simulations in their
classrooms or in workplace training. These simulations can be an excellent way for nurses to practice and Feedback. In addition to gaining real-world practice in clinical reasoning, nurses should also be prepared to engage in regular self-
reflection. By identifying what went well versus which areas of the process could use improvement, nurses can proactively improve their reasoning over time. Likewise, many nurses find it helpful to seek feedback and guidance from other nurses, whether it be on-the-job or in the classroom. By understanding that you're never truly done developing
your clinical reasoning skills and being committed to a lifetime of learning, you can be in a constant state of improvement as a nursing professional. Ready to Advance Your Nursing Education? Nurses rely on clinical reasoning and problem-solving in nursing on a daily basis, from noting changes in a patient's condition to planning specialized
interventions. The most important thing to keep in mind is that patients' circumstances can change rapidly, so maintaining a clinical reasoning mindset can help healthcare teams adapt and apply their own expertise as needed. If you're interested in building upon your clinical reasoning skills, it might be time to pursue your BSN degree. Specifically,
Nevada State University's RN to BSN online program is designed to help students enhance their analytical, clinical, and management skills in a wide range of healthcare settings. If you already have your ADN and an unencumbered RN license, you could complete this program in as little as 12 months with a convenient and flexible online format! Get
in touch to learn more or start your online application now. Written By: Darby Faubion RN, BSN, MBA Whether you have been a nurse for many years or you are expected to develop and hone as a nurse, you
may wonder, "Exactly what is problem solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving skills are important and share some tips on how to improve your problem-solving skills. Problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" In this article, I will share some insight into problem-solving in nursing?" or "Why is it so important?" or "Why is it 
nursing is the act of utilizing critical thinking and decision-making skills to identify, analyze, and address problems or challenges encountered by nurses in the healthcare setting. Problem-solving in nursing can be related to specific patient needs or may be related to staff issues. Either way, it is an important skill for all nurses to develop, as
unresolved problems can lead to negative consequences for nurses and poor patient outcomes. Problem-solving in nursing is essential for promoting good team dynamics, interdisciplinary collaboration, and positive patient outcomes. The following are five of the top reasons why learning to implement problem-solving skills is so important. The ability
to quickly assess and appropriately address a variety of problem-solving in nursing is the vital foundation that makes up a nurse's clinical judgment and critical thinking skills. Having a strong problem-solving in nursing is the vital foundation that makes up a nurse's clinical judgment and critical thinking skills. Having a strong problem-solving in nursing is the vital foundation that makes up a nurse's clinical judgment and critical thinking skills.
Nurses must rely on their clinical judgment and critical thinking skills to accurately assess a patient's condition, prioritize interventions, and evaluate the effectiveness of those interventions. Problem-solving allows nurses to analyze the situation and select the best evidence-based practices according to the desired outcome. Whether I was working in
a clinical role as a bedside nurse or in management, I learned the importance of demonstrating good problem-solving skills. My patients and team needed me to be an example of how to use good clinical judgment and critical thinking to solve problem-solving skills is essential if you want to be a competent nurse. By
utilizing strong problem-solving skills, you can quickly assess patients and intervene when problems arise. A timely response increases the chances of nursing is based on our ability and willingness to alleviate or solve the problems arise.
that patients face. This is why nurses must have a strong foundation in the techniques and strategies that are essential to problem-solving in nursing. After all, because we spend more time with a patient. As a nurse, you will work
with a variety of team members from all different fields. Your interdisciplinary team may include nurse practitioners, physicians, case managers, physicians, case managers, physicians, radiology technicians, radiology technicians, radiology technicians, and lab techs. It is pertinent that you can contribute to the team's overall common goal of providing high-quality, patient-centered care.
Problem-solving skills are essential to interdisciplinary collaboration, as team members can draw from one another's unique experiences and insight to identify and address individual patient problems. Your problem-solving skills will play a huge part in your collaborative role as a nurse. As nurses, we typically spend the most direct time with patients
Therefore, we often notice changes in patients before other team members. When I worked in critical care, our team had morning rounds, which was a time when members of the interdisciplinary team would discuss the cases of each patient in the unit. Having good problem-solving skills in nursing helped us prepare and contribute to collaborative
efforts aimed at improving our patients' outcomes. The process of problem-solving does not always begin when an actual problem occurs. Along with identifying problems as they arise, nurses must also be able to assess and identify potential risks and put appropriate preventative measures in place. The ability to do so is the foundation of problem-
solving in nursing. You are just working in reverse, so to speak. For example, as a nurse, you may assess a patient and find that they are at high risk for experiencing a fall. Based on your assessment, you will use your problem-solving skills to identify ways to reduce the patient's risk and implement the appropriate fall prevention interventions. By
using your problem-solving skills to correctly assess risk potential, you can help mitigate injuries and avoid poor patient risks. For instance, when working in the ICU, it was standard procedure for us to assess each patient for risks of falls and pressure
ulcers due to the typical acuity of their conditions. Whether you have designated screening tools or must use your own judgment, developing and honing good problem solvers by nature! More often than not, you may have tried to find a solution to a problem
before making anyone else aware of it. Also, nurses are usually the first ones to alert management about recurring or unresolved problems. With problem solvers like nurses on the team, managers are kept in the loop on the issues that affect the delivery of patient care. The cycle of identifying problems, attempting to solve them, and reporting issues
to management, when applicable, creates opportunities that foster growth and improvement. There is always room for improvement, especially in the ever-evolving world of healthcare, which is one reason having good problem-solving skills is crucial in nursing. As a nurse, you rely on the fundamentals of the nursing process that you learned in
nursing school to effectively identify and address problems. By using the nursing process to help you solve problems in nursing. In the following steps, I will show you how to apply the steps of the nursing process to help you solve problems in nursing. In the following steps, I will show you how to apply the steps and continue to
develop and hone your problem-solving skills, the more this will feel like second nature to you. The first step is to fully assess the situation and collect as much information from patient assessments, your observations, or from a review of the patient's medical records. Take the time to ask the appropriate
questions and gain as much information as possible related to the problem. The more thorough your assessment, the more equipped you will be to address the problem. Utilize critical thinking to help you brainstorm ideas for resolutions as you gather information. Once you collect all the pertinent information, it is time to analyze that information and
clearly define the problem at hand. Identifying the problem also encompasses defining any underlying causes or obstacles that may be contributing to the issue. To promote effective problem also encompasses the likelihood that your intervention(s) will result in the desired
resolution of the problem. Identifying a problem is not enough in nursing. Now, it is time to create a plan to help resolve the issue. Even if you have an idea that you may feel offers a good solution, it is good to collaborate with your team. In some situations, you may need to reach outside the nursing team and engage in interdisciplinary collaboration.
Remember, we are all on the same team with the common goal of providing high-quality, patient-centered care! By the way, this step of problem-solving in nursing is a great time to utilize outside resources if needed. For example, look for credible research findings and evidence-based practices for guidance and inspiration! Once your plan is defined
and everyone knows their role in helping to resolve the problem, it is time to put it into action. Depending on the problem and the types of interventions you need, you may be able to implement the interventions on your own. Then again, the problem may be something that requires teamwork to get things done. Remember, if your intervention involves
the patient directly, always be sure to explain what you are doing and why it's important. No one likes to be left in the dark! The fifth step in problem-solving in nursing is to evaluate whether your plan was effective or not. You want to know if the patient responded positively to the intervention or if there were negative consequences. Was the defined
start back at step one to assess the new issues and begin formulating a plan to address them. (The following are the 8 most common examples of problem-solving in nursing.) In the United States, the FDA receives more than 100,000 reports of actual or suspected medication errors each year. Additionally, between 7,000 and 9,000 people die as a
result of medication errors annually. If you suspect a medication error has occurred, it is crucial to take immediate action. For example, if you suspect that a patient has received an incorrect dose of a medication due to a miscommunication within the interdisciplinary team, part of problem-solving in nursing requires you to reach out to the ordering
applicable interventions must be obtained. The mediation error should be reported to management and the pharmacy, according to the facility's guidelines, to help prevent any future errors from occurring. A common problem nurses face is dealing with low nurse-patient ratios. There is not only a nationwide shortage of nurses, but when you throw in
regular sick calls or other reasons for nurses missing work, it can leave staff in a bind, especially if the patient census is high. As a registered nurse, one of the most important ways to use problem-solving skills is to learn how to properly delegate tasks. Delegation is the act of transferring accountability for a job or task to a qualified team member.
Delegation is more than simply assigning tasks, as you must assume that the person to whom you delegate the task has the authority, knowledge, and experience to carry out the assigned tasks in a safe, effective manner. Delegating tasks is an important part of problem-solving in nursing because without doing so effectively, patient safety and
outcomes could be negatively impacted. Even the best nurses have days when emotions run amuck, or frustration seems to be higher than normal. When this happens, it is essential that conflicts be resolved as soon as possible so that quality of care and patient
outcomes are not negatively impacted. As a nurse manager, I have often been the mediator between nurses and other members of the interdisciplinary team. Although mediator between nurses and other members of the interdisciplinary team or have a leadership role, conflict
resolution is often a big part of problem-solving in nursing. The reason for the conflict, who is involved, and the possible impact on patients and the work environment all play a part in how you must handle conflicts. The first step is to determine the source or cause of the conflict. If you have had a disagreement with a coworker, try to resolve the issue
amicably between you. If the situation seems to have gotten out of hand or if multiple people are involved or affected, talking to a team leader or nurse manager may be the best solution. Even nurse leaders need help from time to time. So, if you find that there are conflicts within your team and you need help resolving them, reach out to your director
of nursing for insight and direction. A common challenge nurses face is dealing with patients who either have a communication barrier or those who simply do not wish to communication barriers that prevent them from effectively
communicating. Either way, nurses are often faced with the challenge of finding ways to get patient is the patient himself. No matter the reason for your patient's lack of communication, effective problem-solving in nursing requires us to find ways to break
through communication barriers. The first step is to determine the cause of the issue. For example, if your patient has a communication between you and your patient. On the other hand, if your patient avoids communication for other reasons, such as
embarrassment, fear of retaliation from a spouse or someone else, you can begin the process of breaking down the barrier by providing privacy so you can talk to your patient's input. I remember working in the emergency room one
night and a female patient arrived who was disheveled and had a bruised face and busted lip. A man accompanied her to the hospital. She was reluctant to talk to me or answer questions with him in the room. I politely told the gentleman that I needed to ask him to step out into the waiting room so I could help the patient change into an exam gown
and the physician could perform an assessment. As soon as the man left and the patient felt safe, she revealed he had physically assaulted her. Authorities were notified and he was taken into police custody, and we were able to care for her without her being afraid. One of the most frustrating things I have experienced in nursing is trying to provide
patient care and not having enough supplies to feel I could perform my job safely or effectively. Granted, no good healthcare facility or employer purposefully allows the stock of essential supplies to get low. However, some circumstances may lead to short supplies. For instance, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in full force, hospitals and other
 healthcare facilities seemed to scramble for some of the most essential supplies like masks, gloves, and other personal protective equipment. The problem was so severe that the World Health Organization issued a news release urging the healthcare industry and government to increase the manufacturing of PPE to meet the global demand! I
understand the frustration that comes when nurses need supplies that are not readily available. Although it is every nurse's responsibility to use appropriate supplies when providing patient care, where you work, and your job title may dictate your authority to order or distribute supplies. If you are a nurse manager or work in any other leadership
capacity, you can advocate for your patients and team by working with upper management to ensure enough resources are allocated to assist staff with providing patient care. If you work in a clinical role, pay attention to each patient's needs and prioritize care, including the use of personal protective equipment and other supplies, based on patient
needs. While no one can eliminate every challenge associated with a lack of supplies by working together and avoiding waste, this is another way to promote problem-solving in nursing. If you work in a clinical nursing role, chances are, there will be days when it seems every patient needs something from you at once. There have literally been days
when I felt there were not enough hours in the day to accomplish everything that needed to be done. The problem with having several patients with varying degrees of needs is that if you do not know how to prioritize tasks and manage time, you could risk rushing through work, performing a task incorrectly, or missing an assignment altogether. Any
of these issues can lead to negative consequences for your patients, your organization, and for you as a nurse. One of the best ways to demonstrate problem-solving in nursing is to learn how to prioritize patient care so you can effectively manage time. To implement proper prioritization and time management skills, you must know and practice good
assessment skills so you can determine which patients are in need of the most immediate care. Once you assess your patients, you can delegate tasks to staff capable of providing safe, competent care. As a nurse, there will be times when your belief about whether
something is right or wrong or in the best interest of your patient becomes a dilemmas in nursing are the result of a conflict between different options for action, which could be correct but represent different values, principles, or beliefs.
Even the best nurses face ethical dilemmas and must find ways to solve the problems at hand so that quality patient care can continue. Problem-solving in nursing often means we must set aside our personal beliefs or desires and listen to what the patients, or
their loved ones, ask my opinion about whether continuing hospice care was appropriate or if they should seek alternative, life-saving measures. As a nurse, mother, and friend, everything in hospice, I had to acknowledge that our services were for
terminally ill patients who were not seeking life-saving measures for their terminal diagnosis. Had I encouraged my patients to seek alternative measures, them not receiving some of the things they needed. Sometimes, the hardest part about
nursing is setting aside personal feelings and doing what is best for the patient, especially if we feel we could make better decisions for them than what they choose. However, when faced with ethical dilemmas, the best thing to do is to remain objective, act within your scope of practice, and be supportive of your patient's wishes. One of the most
important responsibilities of nurses of all levels is to promote patient safety. Providing safe care involves several aspects, from administering the correct medication and dose to the right patient safety. When patient safety is compromised, it is
everyone's problem and should be addressed as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Problem-solving in nursing is essential to reducing patient safety risks. The first step in resolving the problem is to identify the problem. From there, you can determine possible causes and solutions. For instance, when I worked at a long-term care facility, there was a
period of time when patient falls and injuries seemed to increase, especially at night. Naturally, the first thing to come to mind was to question if there were enough staff on the night shift to cover the number of clients in the facility. Once we determined that the staff-to-resident ratio was adequate to provide safe care, we looked at other possible
causes. After taking a closer look at incident reports and talking to staff, it was realized that most falls that occurred on the night shift were among patients who were physically fragile, many of whom had some type of dementia. Being physically weak increases the chance of falls and injuries. Having dementia increases the likelihood of forgetting to
call for assistance to get out of bed. Once the risk factors were identified, our team worked with the administration, advocating for bed alarms to be installed on the beds of high-risk patients. After the alarms were installed, we saw a decrease in the number of falls and injuries during the night shift. Learning problem-solving in nursing is essential for
your success. The following are a few tips to help improve your problem-solving skills. One of the best ways you can improve your problem-solving skills in nursing is to dedicate yourself to lifelong learning. No matter what level of education you have achieved up to this point, there is always something new to learn. By embracing opportunities to
learn about new treatments, care strategies, or new breakthroughs in medical care, you can contribute a wealth of knowledge to your team and help solve problems. Effective communication is one of the most useful skills to possess when it comes to problem-solving in nursing! Be intentional about the way you communicate with patients, their
families, and your team members. Sometimes, what seems like the most challenging problem can be easily resolved if you simply take the time to listen to what others say and consider their feelings. Knowing the components of good communication, such as having a clear message, being patient, being receptive, and demonstrating non-
confrontational body language, can help promote effective communication. One of my all-time favorite nursing supervisors was named Ms. Shriver. She was an older nurse who seemed to never get in much of a fuss about anything. Something I always liked about her is that she made every member of our nursing team feel like our thoughts and ideas
were important. Whenever we had a problem in the unit, Ms. Shriver would call a team meeting and ask everyone to "put on our thinking caps" and find a way to fix the issues. I understand that not all problems in nursing are solved by sitting in a team meeting. However, my experience has taught me that when team members are encouraged to get
involved and when they are made to feel as though their thoughts and ideas mean something, it is much easier to work together. So, whether you are a nurse leader, manager, or a member of the clinical team, be the cheerleader who gets others involved and makes others feel like what they do is important and watch what a difference it makes when
it comes to problem-solving in nursing! If there is anything I have learned through my years in nursing, it is that the nurses who are best at solving problems are the ones who are open-minded. Granted, there may be times when you have more experience than someone else, or you feel your ideas for a resolution are more likely to bring success, but
what is the harm in being open-minded and giving others a chance to contribute? When you are open-minded and willing to take others' knowledge and experiences into consideration, you create an atmosphere conducive to building trust and strengthening your team. Even if you make the final decision about how to handle a problem, being open-
minded can have a long-lasting impact on your team dynamics. One of the most important skills you can develop as a nurse is critical thinking is the process nurses use to solve problems, influence patient outcomes, and promote safe, effective patient outcomes, and promote safe patient outcomes, and promote safe
your patient and prepare to intervene and contribute to decision-making that promotes positive patient and organizational outcomes. Utilizing critical thinking skills involves being flexible, impartial, and an independent thinker. It is characterized by demonstrating professional intuition, perseverance, and integrity. Evidence-based practice in nursing
involves providing quality care based on current knowledge and research instead of relying only on advice from peers, personal beliefs, or traditional methods of accomplishing things. Because evidence-based approach can be helpful when you try to implement problem-
solving in nursing. When I teach classes about using evidence-based practices for decision-making and problem-solving, I typically use some of the simplest examples to get my point across. There are many nursing interventions that we use daily that are evidence-based and when implemented properly, help reduce or resolve patient problems. For
example, we implement handwashing protocol because evidence has shown that frequent, proper handwashing techniques help prevent the spread of infection. Also, if you have a patient who has issues with poor circulation and is immobile or bedbound, to solve problems associated with those issues, you should implement measures to protect and
maintain good skin integrity. Another tip to help improve problem-solving in nursing is to lead by example. You do not have to have the title of director, manager, or leader to be a good example. Even so, whatever your position, make ethical, patient-centered decisions and demonstrate professionalism at all times. Be open to receiving feedback from
your peers and embrace new ideas that could lead to better patient, organizational, or professional outcomes. Finally, appreciate the individual strengths of your colleagues and work collaboratively with them to promote a good work environment where problems can be addressed in a civil manner. No matter what your title or level of education, one
of the most important skills you can develop as a nurse is problem-solving in nursing?" You learned why problem-solving in nursing? You learned why problem-solving in nursing? You learned why problem-solving in nursing in nursing? You learned why problem-solving in nursing? You learned
is important, steps to follow to help you solve problems, and tips to improve your problem-solving skills. By adopting an attitude dedicated to lifelong learning and a willingness to work for the good of the patients you serve, you can learn to implement problem-solving skills that positively impact patient, team, organizational, and professional
outcomes. 1. "How Can You Improve Your Risk Management Skills Through Problem-Solving?" (linkedin.com) 2. "Nursing Process" (National Library of Medicine) 3. "Medication Dispensing Errors and Prevention" (National Library of Medicine) 3. "Medication Dispensing Errors and Prevention" (National Library of Medicine) 4. "What is Conflict Resolution in Nursing?" (linkedin.com) 2. "Nursing Process" (National Library of Medicine) 3. "Medication Dispensing Errors and Prevention" (National Library of Medicine) 4. "What is Conflict Resolution in Nursing?" (linkedin.com) 2. "Nursing Process" (National Library of Medicine) 3. "Medication Dispensing Errors and Prevention" (National Library of Medicine) 4. "What is Conflict Resolution in Nursing?" (linkedin.com) 2. "Nursing Process" (National Library of Medicine) 3. "Medication Dispensing Errors and Prevention" (National Library of Medicine) 4. "What is Conflict Resolution in Nursing?" (National Library of Medicine) 4. "What is Conflict Resolution Dispensing Errors and Prevention" (National Library of Medicine) 4. "What is Conflict Resolution Dispensing Errors and Prevention" (National Library of Medicine) 4. "What is Conflict Resolution Dispensing Errors and Prevention" (National Library of Medicine) 4. "What is Conflict Resolution Dispension Dispensi
(nursingprocess.org) 5. "Shortage of Personal Protective Equipment Endangering Health Workers Worldwide" (World Health Organization) 6. "20 Common Examples of Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing (with Examples, Importance, & How to Improve)"
(nursingprocess.org) 8. "What is Critical Thinking in Nursing? (with Examples, Importance, & How to Improve)" (nursingprocess.org) Darby Faubion, RN, BSN, MBA Darby Faubion is a nurse and allied health instructor with over 20 years of clinical experience. Her work history includes clinical experience in pediatrics, mental health, addiction and
behavioral disorders, geriatrics, wound management, and communicable disease. Darby has worked in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home health educator at both community college and university levels. Her love for nursing and nursing education led to her
becoming a test-taking strategist and NCLEX prep coach. Some experts describe a person's ability to question belief systems, test previously held assumptions, and recognize ambiguity as evidence of critical thinking. Others identify specific skills that demonstrate critical thinking, such as the ability to identify problems and biases, infer and draw
conclusions, and determine the relevance of information to a situation. Nicholas McGowan, BSN, RN, CCRN, has been a critical care nurse for 10 years in neurological trauma nursing and decision-making by healthcare providers. It is a
process where people use a logical process to gather information and take purposeful action based on their evaluation.""This cognitive process is vital for excellent patient outcomes because it requires that nurses make clinical decisions utilizing a variety of different lenses, such as fairness, ethics, and evidence-based practice," he says. Successful
 nurses think beyond their assigned tasks to deliver excellent care for their patients. For example, a nurse might be tasked with changing a wound dressing, delivering medications, and monitoring vital signs during a shift. However, it requires critical thinking skills to understand how a difference in the wound may affect blood pressure and
temperature and when those changes may require immediate medical intervention. Nurses care for many patients during their shifts. Strong critical thinking skills are crucial when juggling various tasks so patient safety and care are not compromised. Jenna Liphart Rhoads, Ph.D., RN, is a nurse educator with a clinical background in surgical-trauma
adult critical care, where critical thinking and action were essential to the safety of her patients. She talks about examples of critical thinking in a healthcare environment, saying: "Nurses must also critically think to determine which patients.
Patient conditions and environments are continually in flux, therefore nurses must constantly be evaluating and re-evaluating information they gather (assess) to keep their patients safe."The COVID-19 pandemic created hospital care situations where critical thinking was essential. It was expected of the nurses on the general floor and in intensive
care units. Crystal Slaughter is an advanced practice nurse in the intensive care unit (ICU) and a nurse educator. She observed critical thinking throughout the pandemic as she watched intensive care unit educator. She observed critical thinking throughout the pandemic as she watched intensive care unit (ICU) and a nurse educator. She observed critical thinking throughout the pandemic as she watched intensive care unit (ICU) and a nurse educator. She observed critical thinking throughout the pandemic as she watched intensive care unit (ICU) and a nurse educator.
bedside and are often the first ones to detect issues. Then, the nurse needs to gather the appropriate subjective and objective data from the physician or advanced practice provider," she explains. Learn More About Our PartnersWe asked our experts for the top five strategies
nurses can use to purposefully improve their critical thinking skills. 1 Slaughter is a fan of the case-based approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning critical thinking skills. In much the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way a detective would approach to learning the same way and the same way a detective would be same way and the same way are same way and the same way and the same way are same way a 
"What is going on? What information am I missing? Can I get that information? What does that information mean for the patient? How quickly do I need to act?"Consider forming a group and working with a mentor who can guide you through case studies. This provides you with a learner-centered environment in which you can analyze data to reach
conclusions and develop communication, analytical, and collaborative skills with your colleagues. 2Rhoads is an advocate for self-reflection is a form of personal
analysis to observe and evaluate situations and how you responded. This gives you the opportunity to discover mistakes you may have made and to establish new behavior patterns that may help you may go over the conversation in your
head and think about ways you could have responded. It's important to go through the decisions you made during your day and determine if you should have gotten more information before acting or if you could have gotten more information before acting or if you could have asked better questions. During self-reflection, you may try thinking about the problem in reverse. This may not give you an immediate
answer, but can help you see the situation with fresh eyes and a new perspective. How would find a wound infection? How does this information change your plan for the next dressing change? McGowan has learned that "critical thinking the different if you planned the dressing change your plan for the next dressing change? McGowan has learned that "critical thinking the different if you planned the dressing change your plan for the next dressing change? McGowan has learned that "critical thinking the different if you planned the dressing change your plan for the next dressing change? McGowan has learned that "critical thinking the different if you planned the dressing change your plan for the next dressing change? McGowan has learned that "critical thinking the different if you planned the dressing the dressing the different if you planned the dressing th
is a self-driven process. It isn't something that can simply be taught. Rather, it is something that you practice and cultivate with experience. To develop critical thinking skills, you have to be curious and inquisitive."To gain critical thinking skills, you must undergo a purposeful process of learning strategies and using them consistently so they become
a habit. One of those strategies is developing a questioning mind. Meaningful questions lead to useful answers and are at the core of critical thinking. However, learning to ask insightful questions is a skill you must develop. Faced with staff and nursing shortages, declining patient conditions, and a rising number of tasks to be completed, it may be
difficult to do more than finish the task in front of you. Yet, questions drive active learning and train your brain to see the world differently and take nothing for granted. It is easier to practice questioning in a non-stressful, quiet environment until it becomes a habit. Then, in the moment when your patient's care depends on your ability to ask the right
questions, you can be ready to rise to the occasion. 4Critical thinking in nursing requires self-awareness and being present in the moment. During a hectic shift, it is easy to lose focus as you struggle to finish every task needed for your patients. Passing medication, changing dressings, and hanging intravenous lines all while trying to assess your
 patient's mental and emotional status can affect your focus and how you manage stress as a nurse. Staying present helps you to be proactive in your thinking and anticipate what might happen, such as bringing extra lubricant for a catheterization or extra gloves for a dressing change. By staying present, you are also better able to practice active
 listening. This raises your assessment skills and gives you more information as a basis for your interventions and decisions. Sas you are developing critical thinking skills, it can be helpful to use a process. For example: Ask questions. Gather information. Implement a strategy. Evaluate the results. Consider another point of view. These are the fundamenta
McGowan places personal biases at the top of his list of common pitfalls to critical thinking in nursing. "We all form biases from each patient encounter to avoid making false assumptions that may interfere with their care," he says. Successful critical thinkers
accept they have personal biases and learn to look out for them. Awareness of your biases is the first step to understanding if your personal bias is contributing to the wrong decision. New nurses may be overwhelmed by the transition from academics to clinical practice, leading to a task-oriented mindset and a common new nurse mistake; this
conflicts with critical thinking skills. "Consider a patient whose blood pressure is low but who also needs to take a blood pressure medication at a scheduled time. A task-oriented nurse may provide the medication without regard for the patient's blood pressure because medication at a scheduled time. A task-oriented nurse may provide the medication without regard for the patient's blood pressure because medication at a scheduled time. A task-oriented nurse may provide the medication without regard for the patient's blood pressure medication without regard for the patient's blood pressure medication at a scheduled time.
nurse employing critical thinking skills would address the low blood pressure, review the patient's blood pressure history and trends, and potentially call the physician to discuss whether medication should be withheld." Fear and pride may also stand in the way of developing critical thinking skills. Your belief system and worldview provide comfort and
 guidance, but this can impede your judgment when you are faced with an individual whose belief system or cultural practices are not the patient. Nurses with strong critical thinking skills exhibit: Learn from their mistakes and the mistakes of othe
nursesLook forward to integrating changes that improve patient careTreat each patient interaction as a part of a wholeEvaluate new events based on past knowledge and adjust decision-making as neededSolve problems with their colleaguesAre self-confidentAcknowledge biases and seek to ensure these do not impact patient careCritical thinking in
nursing protects patient health and contributes to professional development and career advancement. Administrative and clinical nursing leaders are required to have strong critical thinking skills to be successful in their positions. By using the strategies in this guide during your daily life and in your nursing role, you can intentionally improve your
critical thinking abilities and be rewarded with better patient outcomes and potential career advancement. Nursing practice utilizes critical thinking skills to provide the best care for patients. Often, the patient's cause of pain or health issue is not immediately clear. Nursing professionals need to use their knowledge to determine what might be
causing distress, collect vital information, and make quick decisions on how best to handle the situation. Nursing school gives students learn about diseases, anatomy, and physiology, and how to improve the patient's overall well-being. Learners
also participate in supervised clinical experiences, where they practice using their critical thinking skills to make decisions in professional settings. Nurse managers certainly use critical thinking skills to make decisions in professional settings. Survey on their critical thinking skills in their daily duties. But when working in a health setting, anyone giving care to patients uses their critical thinking skills. Everyone — including
licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, registered nurses, and advanced nurse practitioners —needs to flex their critical thinking skills to make potentially life-saving decisions. Written By: Darby Faubion BSN, RN Successful nursing requires learning several skills used to communicate with patients, families, and healthcare teams. One of the most essential skills
nurses must develop is the ability to demonstrate critical thinking in nursing? As you read this article, you will learn what critical thinking in nursing? As you read this article, you will also find 18 simple tips to improve critical thinking in nursing? As you read this article, you will learn what critical thinking in nursing? As you read this article, you will also find 18 simple tips to improve critical thinking in nursing? As you read this article, you will also find 18 simple tips to improve critical thinking in nursing? As you read this article, you will also find 18 simple tips to improve critical thinking in nursing? As you read this article, you will also find 18 simple tips to improve critical thinking in nursing?
sample scenarios about how to apply critical thinking in your nursing career. What is Critical thinking in nursing? Critical thinking in nursing care. Nurses who use critical thinking is the process applied by nurses to solve problems related to patient care. It is an essential process necessary to provide efficient, safe, and skillful nursing care. Nurses who use critical thinking in nursing care.
influential in decision-making, resulting in enhanced effectiveness and more favorable patient outcomes. At its core, nursing involves critical thinking skills as a nurse cannot be overstated. Nurses are faced with decision-making situations daily, and those decisions impact patient outcomes, nurse-patient
relationships, and interprofessional relationships. Critical thinking skills in nursing drive the nurse's decision-making ability. It impacts every aspect of patient care. Here are four reasons why nurses must develop critical thinking skills. Nurses who learn critical thinking can use those skills to understand normal or abnormal changes in patient
conditions and determine what nursing intervention may be necessary to address those changes. It is not uncommon for nurses to encounter situations in patient care where there are multiple appropriate options for care or treatment. While more than one treatment option may be reasonable, the nurse's responsibility is to determine which treatment
is most appropriate. Critical thinking in nursing promotes active thought and decision-making. When nurses demonstrate clinical thinking skills, they are able to promote improvement in patient care methods and improve professional development opportunities, which benefit patients and the healthcare team. Although nursing is considered a science,
there are instances that require split-second decisions. Nurses who are critical thinkers are more likely to make rational, patient-centered decisions that benefit the client and healthcare team. Critical thinking in nursing. In
nursing, the interpretation of patient data is an essential part of critical thinking. Nurses must also interpret the meaning inferred by a patient's verbal or nonverbal communication and use their interpretation of communication and data to
develop and implement effective care plans. Nurses who apply critical thinking use the knowledge and skills they have obtained to examine their beliefs when presented with new evidence. Independent thought means the nurse is open-minded and willing to consider different measures of care, practice, and technical skills and how each will impact
patient and professional outcomes. Critical thinking nurses consider patient situations based on evidence, not others' opinions. They remain objective and impartial, which creates an atmosphere conducive to effective communication, which benefits patients and the healthcare team. Intuition is the ability of someone to perceive and understand
concepts without using conscious reasoning. Intuition is often referred to as sixth sense, instinct, suspicion, hunch, or a gut feeling. Although some people view intuition as guessing, and therefore inappropriate, others believe intuition as a legitimate and essential aspect of clinical judgment, acquired through knowledge and nursing experiences.
While nurses should use conscious, intentional thought in decision-making, intuition is also an integral part of critical thinking in nursing. When nurses identify problems that represent an unsteady patient status or conflict at work, they use problem-solving. Although they go hand in hand, problem-solving and critical thinking are not the same things
Problem-solving occurs when nurses implement critical thinking measures to obtain information about a problem and suggest possible solutions. Despite our best efforts, there are days when patient statuses change unexpectedly, or we must work short-staffed, requiring us to be flexible. Nurses who practice critical thinking understand the
importance of flexibility and how that characteristic can lead to better patient outcomes. Critical thinking in nursing and patient problems despite frustration or difficulties. Nurses who
practice perseverance continue to address issues until a resolution is found. To be effective in nursing, critical thinking must represent integrity in practices. It means being willing to admit inconsistencies within one's own
beliefs and between their ideas and those of others. Nurses who successfully implement critical thinking are eager to listen to and learn from others to improve patient and the team. Developing critical thinking in nursing takes time and determination. The
following are some examples of critical thinking in nursing with scenarios of poor critical thinking and excellent critical thinking responses. Nurses are responsible for maintaining relationships between patients and staff. They take initial reports and discuss care options with patients, families, and other team members. Mrs. Hill's four-year-old son
has a high temperature and calls the after-hours nurse hotline for advice. The nurse taking the call must perform a nursing assessment by phone to determine which recommendations are appropriate. The nurse taking the call must perform a nursing assessment by phone to determine which recommendations are appropriate. The nurse taking the call must perform a nursing assessment by phone to determine which recommendations are appropriate.
you just have to wait it out." Applying excellent critical thinking in this scenario requires the nurse to ask questions: "How long has your son's temperature been elevated?" "What is his temperature now, and when is the last time he had
medicine to help reduce the fever?" "Is your son able to drink fluids without becoming sick?" "Is your son drowsy or still active?" When the nurse gathers relevant information about the exit, most appropriate steps. Critical thinking in this scenario allows the nurse to decide whether it is okay to
wait until the clinic opens the following day, page the primary doctor, or send the client to the emergency room for evaluation. Nurses with good critical thinking skills are instrumental in increasing the quality of patient outcomes. Nurses are the eyes and ears of the healthcare team, and critical thinking skills allow nurses
to be effective patient advocates, promoting quality patient care. Mr. Reid is two days post-op following an emergency appendectomy. During the nursing assessment, the nurse notes increased agitation and noticeable tremors in his hands. He is afebrile but is experiencing a more rapid heart rate than four hours ago. Because the client had surgery
two days ago, and is exhibiting agitation and increased heart rate, the nurse naturally suspects the client is becoming septic. She notifies the physician and requests an order for antibiotics to help resolve sepsis. Although Mr. Reid is exhibiting some symptoms associated with sepsis, the nurse considers other factors. She notes Mr. Reid's temperature
is not elevated and has not been elevated since his admission to the post-surgical floor. The nurse realizes Mr. Reid's symptoms could indicate alcohol withdrawal. Due to the nature of his surgery being an emergency, a thorough medical history may not have been available at the time of initial admission. Before calling the physician, the nurse takes
the time to gather a comprehensive medical history, including the use of alcohol or recreational drugs. Collaboration must contribute to critical thinking to identify the needs and priorities related to the patient. Mrs. Bellows is a 40-year-old patient receiving treatment for
H1N1 influenza. Since being admitted to your care, she has developed Guillain-Barre syndrome and is now on a ventilator. The attending physician has ordered Peramivir. After looking up the medication, the nurse discovers the
drug is experimental and intended to treat complicated cases of Guillain-Barre. Because Peramivir is a relatively new drug and the medication from the physician's instructions, ordering the medication from the medication from the physician's instructions, ordering the medication from the physician's instructions and the medication from the 
treatment of Mrs. Bellows, the nurse is unfamiliar with the drug and its potential side effects or adverse reaction. The nurse asks the physician and unit manager to be present during the administration of the initial dose. Although the
nurse could administer the medication and report the patient's response, collaborating with other team members puts the patient's best interest and safety at the center of care. Precepting is an excellent way to foster critical thinking skills in nursing students, new nurse graduates, and nurses who are new to your department. Nurse Janna is the
charge nurse responsible for precepting the newest nursing team member, Nurse Michael appears to be having trouble setting priorities for patient at a time instead of considering the newest nursing team member, Nurse Janna attempts to organize work for Nurse
Michael, but he does not carry the approach forward with his next assignment. Nurse Janna understands Nurse Michael may be overwhelmed. Instead of discussing options for prioritization and helping Nurse Michael may be overwhelmed. Instead of discussing options for prioritization and helping Nurse Michael may be overwhelmed. Instead of discussing options for prioritization and helping Nurse Michael may be overwhelmed. Instead of discussing options for prioritization and helping Nurse Michael may be overwhelmed. Instead of discussing options for prioritization and helping Nurse Michael may be overwhelmed. Instead of discussing options for prioritization and helping Nurse Michael may be overwhelmed. Instead of discussing options for prioritization and helping Nurse Michael may be overwhelmed.
nurse for some of his patient load. Nurse Janna realizes being a new nurse can feel overwhelming and wants to help Nurse Michael adjust to his role. Instead of organizing his work for him or taking over patient care, Nurse Janna takes time with Nurse Michael adjust to his role. Instead of organizing his work for him or taking over patient care, Nurse Janna takes time with Nurse Michael adjust to his role.
Janna allows Nurse Michael to refine and practice his own clinical thinking skills regarding prioritizing patient care. At the end of the shift, Nurse Janna discusses the day with Nurse Michael and determines what nursing actions worked well and which ones could have been done more effectively. (The following are 18 Simple Tips to help nurses
improve their critical thinking skills.) Nurses who are open-minded take the knowledge and experiences of others into consideration. Open-mindedness in nursing demonstrates a willingness to learn from others and gain insight from the professional experiences of your peers and creates an environment in which you can develop essential nursing
skills like critical thinking. Becoming self-aware means considering your values, ethics, morals, beliefs, and thought processes. People who practice self-aware nurses know their strengths and weaknesses and use their knowledge of self as a guide to aid
them in decision-making. Critical thinking in nursing requires being objective, which means being willing to suspend judgment. When you avoid judgment, you create an atmosphere conducive to effective communication, a necessary component of critical thinking and collaboration in nursing care. Everyone forms biases based on personal
experiences. However, nurses must learn to separate personal biases from patient encounters to prevent making false assumptions. If you identify a personal bias, take steps to eliminate it. In so doing, you allow yourself to be engaged
in more multi-dimensional, objective ways of thinking, promoting improved critical thinking is an ever-growing and evolving profession, requiring nurses to keep up. Part of critical thinking in nursing is having a willingness to ask questions and learn from others. Further, asking questions helps you make informed decisions and evaluate
the effectiveness of patient care. Experienced nurses are excellent sources of knowledge and information. When you surround yourself with like-minded people that have more experience than you, you can take from their experiences and build your own strengths. For example, nurses who have worked in intensive care for years can offer insight on
how to implement critical thinking to prioritize care. Other nurses understand the importance of growing, learning, and developing skills. Professional nursing organizations offer excellent opportunities to meet like-minded nurses who will encourage and challenge you. Many organizations offer members-only workshops and conferences focused on
important topics such as critical thinking or decision-making. Self-reflection is a type of personal analysis used to observe and evaluate situations in your life and your responses to them. Self-reflection gives nurses the opportunity to discover and acknowledge mistakes and establish new patterns of behavior to improve decision-making later. Nurses
who practice self-reflection may write in a journal or simply spend time alone thinking about their day and what, if anything, could have or should have been done differently. Reflecting on one's actions and behaviors is an excellent way to apply critical thinking in our personal lives, which can impact professional roles. No matter where you work,
there will be a chain of command. Nurse managers are tasked with the responsibility of making sure patient care is provided in a timely, efficient manner. They have demonstrated the ability to exercise critical thinking and high-quality patient care. The decision to utilize the chain of command and seek direction, when needed, demonstrates a patient-
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centered level of critical thinking. Critical thinking skills in nursing require you to establish what information is most relevant to the problem or situation. When you use critical thinking skills, you evaluate the amount of context of information or data and use it to make good decisions based on your nursing judgment. People in leadership opportunities, you are setting yourself up for real-world experiences that require critical thinking skills. If your employer has mentioned a

new project or something they want to accomplish within the facility, ask to have a role in project leadership or to assist a team member in training to help improve your own critical thinking skills. Another great way to hone critical thinking skills as a nurse is to think about previous experiences you have had. Your decisions during those times influenced patient outcomes or relationships. Nurses often work in fast-paced environments where they must care for several patients. Each day, nurses must know what tasks, assessments, or patient concerns need to be addressed. Critical thinking measures help nurses determine which tasks are of higher priority so they can establish a plan of action for their day. Because the clinical environment may change quickly, nurses must remember to remain flexible even after an initial plan or priority checklist is made. Critical thinking nurses cultivate an attitude of confidence when making decisions about patient care. Keep in mind there is a difference between being confident and being conceited. Critical thinkers believed using well-reasoned reasoning will lead to reliable conclusions which improve patient outcomes. Nurses who are critical thinkers believed using well-reasoned reasoning will lead to reliable conclusions which improve patient outcomes. Nurses ask questions including, "What would happen if we used a different approach to wound care?" "Would something else be more effective in improving patient outcomes?" or "How does this protocol align with the patient's needs at this time?" Using critical thinking skills as a nurse requires a willingness to make impartial judgments by addressing the viewpoint of everyone involved in patient care. Being fair-minded means considering the thoughts and beliefs of the patient, family, and interdisciplinary team and demonstrating efforts to integrate change when improved patient outcomes are a possibility. It is impossible for one person to know everything about a patient, illness, or treatment. Nurses who practice intellectual humility are willing to admit what they do not know and accept instruction from more experienced nurses or staff. Intellectual humility is a characteristic of critical thinking in nursing that occurs when nurses accept knowing what everyone believes to be the right approach may not always be right or the best approach to patient care as new treatments and evidence emerge. Nurses who demonstrate critical thinking understand the importance of continuous learning. If you want to improve your critical thinking skills in nursing, take advantage of every opportunity to ask questions, learn new skills, and implement knowledge into daily practice. Critical thinking in nursing is essential to promote positive patient outcomes and build strong healthcare teams. Weak critical thinking skills can manifest in various ways, including inaction when action is needed, poor decision-making, and disinterest on the part of nurses. The consequences of poor critical thinking skills in nursing are far-reaching. The following are a few examples of how a lack of critical thinking skills can impact healthcare. Patients rely on nurses to make important decisions about their care. When nurses fail to use critical thinking skills or have not developed strong critical thinking skills, the risk that patients will lack adequate, high-quality care increases. Nurses are trained to use practice methods that include assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation. When nurses fail to use critical thinking skills or have inadequate skills, it becomes difficult to anticipate and recognize changes in patient health or response to treatment, making it difficult (if not impossible) to apply necessary changes to care. When nurses have poor critical thinking skills, they may overlook changes in their patient's status, which could indicate the need to change the treatment plan. As failure to recognize these changes in a patient's status are recognized, nurses must create updated treatment plans. While it is not uncommon to need to update or change care plans, overlooking important information or symptoms due to poor critical thinking can prolong the amount of time patients require care, resulting in increased cost of healthcare services. Effective patient care requires each member of the team to exercise critical thinking and communication skills. Nurses who do not use critical thinking rarely question treatment plans or changes in their patient's status. When there is an attitude that there is nothing to discuss, nurses stop communicating with one another and other members of the care team, resulting in poor team relationships and inappropriate patient outcomes. Critical thinking in nursing is an integral part of effective patient care. There are numerous books and resources focused on helping hone critical thinking skills in nursing. • Tips to improve Knowledge and Critical Thinking skills • Critical Thinking skills • Critical Thinking skills in nursing. Nursing? • Critical Thinking in the Nursing Process • 4 Steps to Master Critical Thinking • Critical Thinking • Critical Thinking • Critical Thinking • Critical Thinking of the Master Critical Thinking • Cr thinking. At its core, critical thinking helps promote positive patient outcomes and encourages effective communication between patients, families, and team members. Nurses who care enough to ask how to improve critical thinking in nursing are instrumental in providing safe, high-quality patient care. By implementing the 18 simple steps to improve critical thinking in nursing featured in this article, you can become a more efficient nurse and help positively impact patient outcomes and interprofessional relationships. A lack of critical thinking in nursing career. Each day, nurses are faced with situations that require critical thinking and decision-making skills. These skills make it possible to be effective caregivers and promote positive patient outcomes. Critical thinking is what many psychologists refer to as a "self-driven process." Others cannot teach you to think critically. Instead, it is a practice that must be cultivated intentionally. Each person develops critical thinking skills differently. While there is no set amount of time it may take to improve critical thinking skills in nursing, you can implement measures to challenge yourself and strengthen your skills. Critical thinking skills in nursing are an essential part of effective patient care. Therefore, all nurses who wish to have a positive impact on patient care and the delivery of healthcare services should strive to develop excellent critical thinking skills. You can assess your critical thinking skills in nursing by assessing whether you meet certain critical thinking skills, • Ask relevant guestions • Justify opinions • Address and evaluate multiple points of view • Explain assumptions and reasons related to your choice of patient care options 5. Can I Be a Nurse and being a nurse with effective skills and practices. While you may graduate nursing school and pass the licensing exam with limited critical thinking skills, your chances of long-term success are not favorable. If you feel you lack effective critical thinking skills and develop strength in your nursing practice. Darby Faubion BSN, RN Darby Faubion is a nurse and Allied Health educator with over twenty years of experience. She has assisted in developing curriculum for nursing graduates across the United States who are preparing to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).