

Winona State University

Graduate Programs in Nursing

Clinical Practice Question

The clinical practice question of relevance to nursing can be defined in many ways. It may be a broad area of interest of specialty, such as nursing care of the cardiac patient or nursing care of children. It may mean clinical scholarship, such as sleep disorders in care givers or culturally competent care of certain populations, It may be specific to use of a mid-range theory such as the theory of symptom management (Humphreys, et al., 2008) or theory of planned behavior (Ajzen, 1991). It may also address specific health care interventions for individuals, families, communities or populations; health services; or specifics of diagnosis, prognosis, harm/etiology; quality improvement; economic evaluation; clinical prediction; or meaning of illness or patient/family experiences, beliefs or attitudes.

For the clinical focus of this DNP program, the clinical practice question is expected to reflect a practice problem within the scopes of Registered Nurses or Advanced Practice Nurses or Nursing and Organizational Leaders in any type of setting. It should be sufficiently small in scope to allow analysis, intervention(s), and evaluation of a problem solution within the time frame of this DNP program.

Examples of clinical questions of interest to DNP students are:

1. Can a community program to address health literacy led by a nurse practitioner reduce disparity, increase frequency of access to needed care, and improve management of chronic illness for an identified immigrant population?
2. For patients who require insulin for Type II diabetes, is a nurse-led clinic that uses on-site blood testing and computerized decision support system as effective as routine medical care for maintaining long-term blood sugar control?
3. Is an in-hospital fall reduction prevention program for adults and gerontological patients cost-effective within an accountable care system?
4. Are there demographic, school performance, and psychosocial risk factors that can be used to develop a predictive index for at-risk behaviors in adolescents?

Ajzen I. (1991). The theory of planned behavior. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 50, 79–211.

Humphreys, J., Lee, K.A., Carrieri-Kohlman, V, Puntillo, K.,Faucett, J., Janson, S., Aouizerat, B., Donesky-Cuenco, D. (2008). Theory of symptom management. In M.J. Smith P.R. Liehr (Eds.), *Middle range theory for nursing* (2nd ed., pp. 145-158). New York: Springer.