How Stanford Health Care improved nurse resident satisfaction scores with new EBP platform
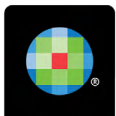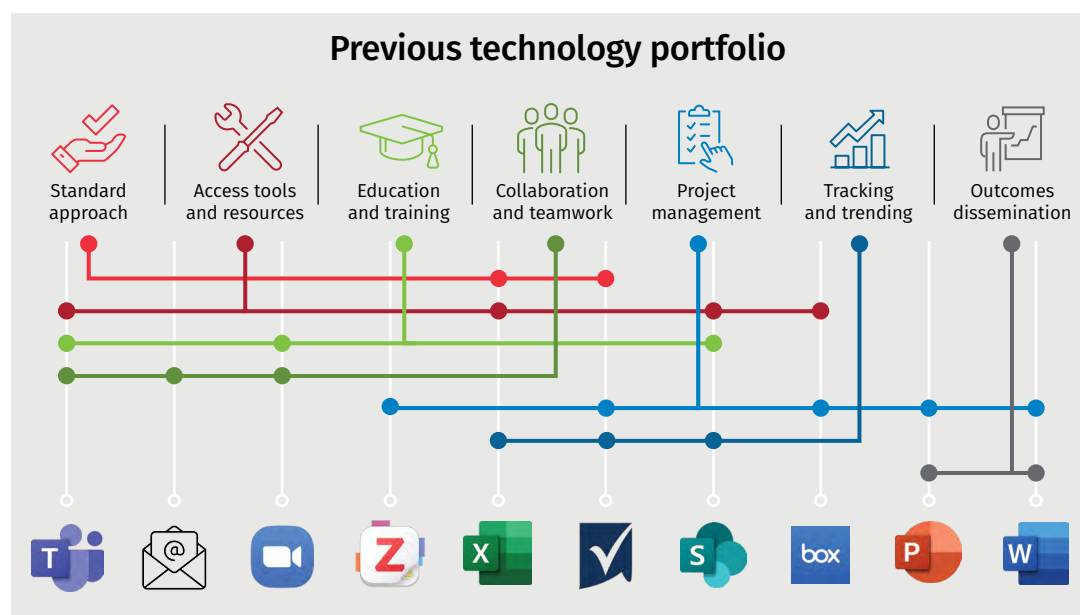
Stanford Health Care ranks among the 15 largest health systems in California. It has been recognized as a Magnet® organization four times since 2007, and its nationally accredited nurse residency program (NRP) transitions more than 200 newly graduated nurses into professional clinical practice annually. The extensive, 12-month NRP curriculum concludes with an evidence-based practice (EBP) project, which poses challenges in facilitating and coordinating a large number of nurse residents.

The challenge

EBP training for the NRP at Stanford was previously executed and managed through disparate technologies that didn't integrate with one another. Barbara Mayer, PhD, RN, Senior Nurse Consultant for Evidence-Based Practice and Executive Director, Professional Practice & Clinical Improvement at Stanford Health Care, explains: "We had different tools to build databases, access references, navigate projects, collect data, create surveys, support collaboration, facilitate file sharing, and track version control. Feedback from our residents confirmed that they were confused regarding which software to use for what, and competency in using those tools varied widely across individuals."

A Vizient survey revealed that Stanford's nurse residents rated the usefulness of their EBP projects in resolving clinical issues below its national benchmark. Collectively, that feedback prompted a program overhaul — including a search for technology to streamline and standardize how nurse residents conducted EBP projects.

Disjointed systems complicated EBP projects, driving the search for a comprehensive technology solution.

Previous technology portfolio

| Standard approach | Access tools and resources | Education and training | Collaboration and teamwork | Project management | Tracking and trending | Outcomes dissemination |

Ovid® Synthesis
by Wolters Kluwer

The solution

Dr. Mayer and her colleagues selected Ovid® Synthesis as a comprehensive solution for their EBP training and management that would:

Simplify their technology stack	**Provide a consistent methodology**	**Ensure project rigor**
Optimize the staff's limited mentorship time	**Save time and money**	**Facilitate the completion and dissemination of EBP projects.**

Since its inception, Stanford's rollout of Ovid Synthesis has widened to include more of its nursing populations:

2022
Ovid Synthesis was implemented with Stanford's NRP.

2023
Ovid Synthesis was first used in Stanford's EBP Fellowship program.

2024
Ovid Synthesis's quality improvement (QI) features and templates were first used in Stanford's DNP program.

Additionally, Stanford is utilizing the solution's standardized EBP workflow templates, Magnet table export feature, and project repository features to meet Magnet® requirements.

Since the adoption of the solution, Ovid Synthesis has also facilitated the dissemination and publication of the following EBP projects from Stanford:
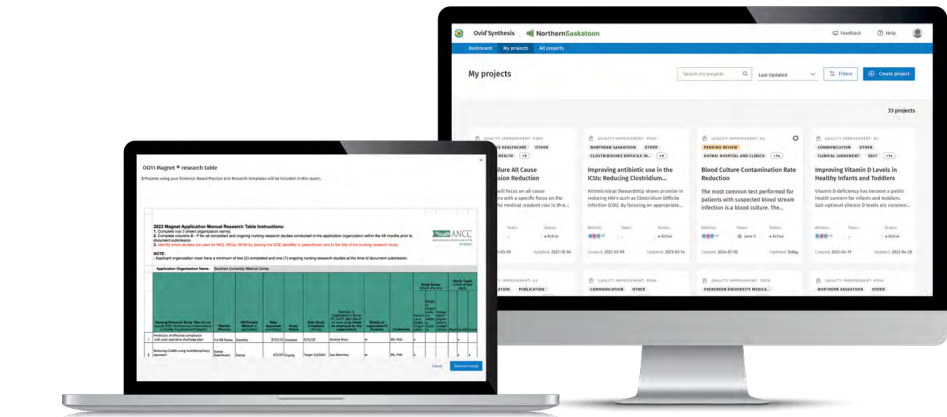
51
internal presentations

2
National conference poster presentations
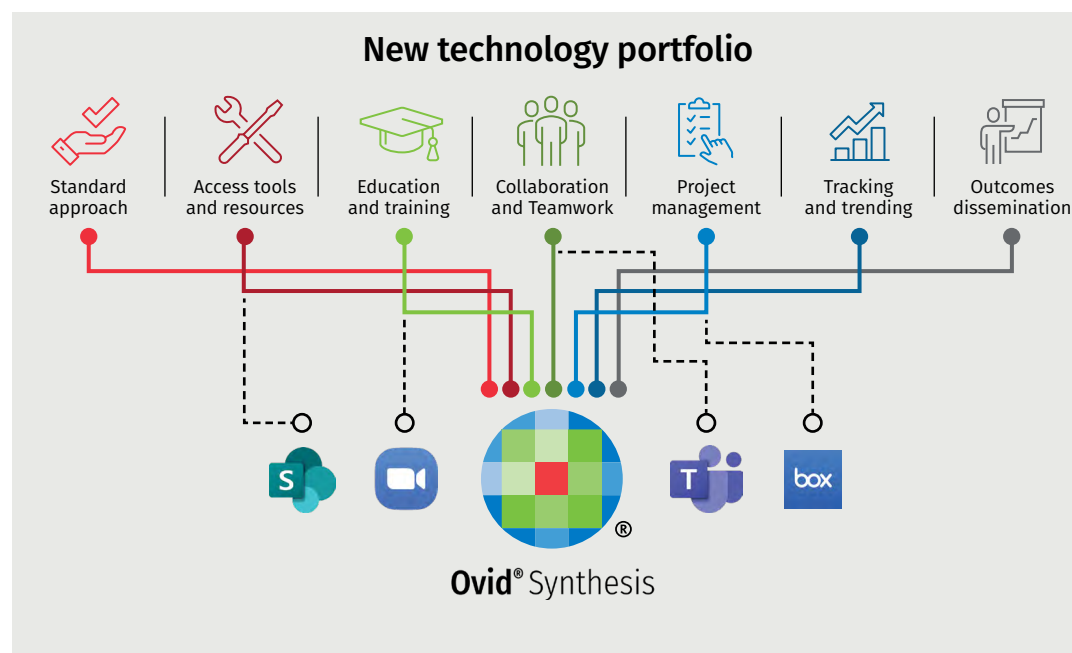
1
National conference podium presentation

1
Journal publication

3
Projects included in Magnet® document

Ovid® Synthesis
by Wolters Kluwer

The results

Implementing this solution provided Stanford's nurse residents and mentors with a single, streamlined platform for the entire EBP project process — from PICOT question to dissemination. Learning and working from a single platform increased participants' efficiency, clarified project steps, improved collaboration, and eliminated duplicate efforts. Due to the time saved with Ovid Synthesis, the NRP was able to complete more projects more quickly, while optimizing in-person class time for other important topics.

New technology portfolio

| Standard approach | Access tools and resources | Education and training | Collaboration and Teamwork | Project management | Tracking and trending | Outcomes dissemination |

Ovid® Synthesis

Nurse residents found Ovid Synthesis simple to understand, easy to implement and use, and their satisfaction scores increased by

14%

To gauge the impact of Ovid Synthesis, Mayer surveyed four NRP cohorts, representative of 341 residents. These residents commented favorably on the technology's short learning curve. They found it simple to understand, easy to implement and use, and their satisfaction scores increased by 14%. The improvement in efficiency when using Ovid Synthesis was a major contributor to participants' increased satisfaction.
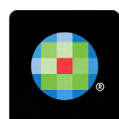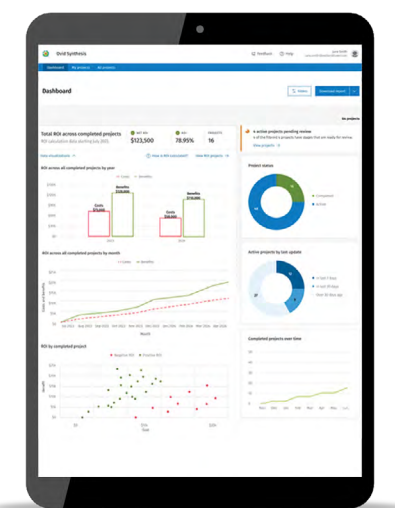
Ovid Synthesis' most recent user survey (2025) showed a 111% increase in the number of completed EBP projects, underscoring the effectiveness of the solution in driving improvement initiatives. Users also reported increased efficiencies, including a 25% reduction in project completion time, a 27% decrease in mentoring oversight time, and a 17% decrease in workshop and education time.

This translated into cost savings and teams devoting more time to their clinical responsibilities, while offering an effective, standardized way to introduce nurse residents to EBP, QI, and research.

Outcomes – NRP satisfaction

The EBP Project Provided a Way to Resolve an Issue on My Unit*

Value	Category
2.98	Vizient National Benchmark
2.83	Prior to Ovid Synthesis
3.16	NRP Cohort 36 – March 2022 n=99
3.22	NRP Cohort 37 – August 2022 n=91
3.01	NRP Cohort 38 – March 2023 n=71
3.23	NRP Cohort 39 – August 2023 n=80
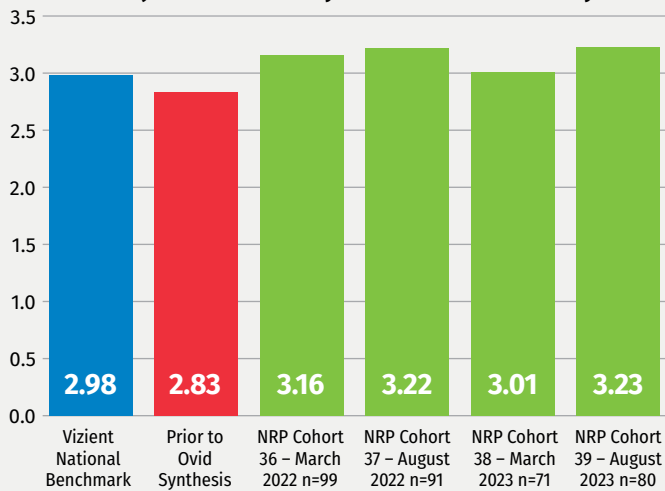
*Vizient Nurse Residency Program evaluation survey question regarding EBP Project

As much as 14% increase in Resident satisfaction

Easy to understand

Simple to implement

Reduced learning curve

Stanford organizational priority outcomes

160+
projects visible to the organization

250+
increase in papers found for NPR projects
From an initial requirement of 2 to an average of 7 per project

$72,800
in potential savings
1 hour per CNS x 20 CNS per week at an hourly rate of $70 for 52 weeks

The success Stanford Health Care has achieved in utilizing Ovid Synthesis has fueled its longer-term plans, including expanding its use, customizing its dashboard, refining its document dissemination process, and leveraging its ROI features more effectively.

Conclusion

Implementation of Ovid Synthesis enabled Stanford Health Care to streamline its resources while meeting its enterprise-wide objectives, Magnet recognition requirements, and NRP requirements for supporting its EBP training. Ovid Synthesis supports nurse leaders, clinical educators, and quality professionals across the continuum in elevating the quality, speed, and impact of their programs' improvement work. Organizations can expect tangible ROI when implementing Ovid Synthesis, making it a valuable asset for maximizing EBP project outcomes.

Scan the QR code to visit the Ovid Synthesis website to learn more, or contact sales@ovid.com for a personalized demo.

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