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Ovid® Synthesis

# Preparing tomorrow's nurses — a strong technology backbone streamlines research to support EBP and QI



By: Maureen Shawn Kennedy, MA, RN, FAAN, Nurse; Editor-in-Chief Emerita, *American Journal of Nursing*, and Jane Barnsteiner, PhD, RN, FAAN, Editor of Translational Research and QI, *American Journal of Nursing*, and Professor Emerita, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

## Executive summary

Academic nursing programs have always played a critical role in ensuring students are prepared for the workforce. As the nursing profession continues to embrace the concepts of evidence-based practice (EBP) and quality improvement (QI), nursing faculty, nursing curricula, and the technology capabilities of the academic institution must continue to evolve.

The demands and expectations of healthcare professionals are more prevalent than ever. Nursing school graduates must also be prepared to meet the evolving requirements of the governing accreditation agencies such as the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), and American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Maintaining excellence and empowerment in nursing is critical to ensuring optimal clinical outcomes for patients. This requires practitioners to instill the tenets of EBP and QI to identify new interventions, recognize industry-wide best practices as they emerge, and bring them to bear in their own hospitals and healthcare settings.

Having the proper technology framework to foster such capabilities in any academic nursing program is critical to this preparedness journey for nursing students and faculty.

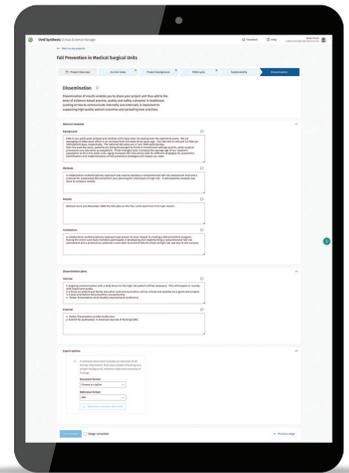
## Introduction

In recent years, there has been a considerable shift in mindset in the nursing profession. It is no longer enough to graduate from nursing school, pass accreditation exams, and rely on rote memorization when treating patients. Instead, the ability to build and deploy critical thinking capabilities has become essential. Nurses must not only apply their knowledge but keep up with the growing body of available clinical evidence to shape their choices at the bedside. The goal is to make the right decision — based on clinical evidence and best practices — to ensure patient safety and advance clinical outcomes despite the inherent patient-to-patient variability nurses face daily on the job.

In recent years, the healthcare profession has recognized that EBP and conscientious efforts to pursue QI initiatives provide essential advantages in maximizing the overall effectiveness of clinical care and improving long-term clinical outcomes and patient safety.

When organizations implement institution-wide evidence-based care, it also yields direct payback — helping the hospital or healthcare setting to improve its overall financial performance, increase nursing satisfaction, and reduce staff turnover. The nursing workforce plays a direct and important role in supporting the overall financial health of any hospital or financial institution. Specifically, consistent reliance on EBP and QI can help such institutions avoid costly performance-related penalties and reduced reimbursement imposed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for failure to meet critical metrics tied to clinical outcomes — such as hospital-acquired infections, pressure ulcers and falls, 30-day hospital readmissions, and more.

***Nursing school graduates must be prepared to meet the evolving requirements of the governing accreditation agencies.***



These penalties are not insignificant. In FY21, Medicare issued penalties resulting in an average reduction in payment of 0.64% for 82% of hospitals evaluated — reductions that will, over the next fiscal year, cost hospitals more than \$521 million.<sup>1</sup> And the requirements continue to grow. To get full reimbursement in FY23, hospitals and healthcare settings must also meet new targets set by CMS related to 14 specific hospital-acquired infections.<sup>2</sup>

Today's nursing students must be appropriately trained and mentored so they have the skills and the mindset to routinely incorporate evidence and quality improvement into their practice. Managing these demands requires a nursing workforce that is capable, confident, and empowered to carry out best practices based on the ever-changing body of clinical evidence that is available. With proper investment in the tools and technologies needed to prepare the nurses of tomorrow — and the faculty who train and mentor them — world-class nursing programs will be better able to keep up with ever-changing BSN, MSN, DNP, and PhD curricula and accreditation requirements.

***Today's nursing students must be appropriately trained and mentored.***

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) set an industry-wide target that by 2020,

**90%**

of all healthcare decisions should be based on evidence.

Yet in 2023, industry estimates suggest that only

**25-35%**

of all healthcare decisions meet this standard.<sup>3</sup>

Providing adequate training for nurses, supported by the most appropriate technology platform from their earliest days in nursing school, is more important than ever.

### **It starts with creating a culture of scholarly inquiry**

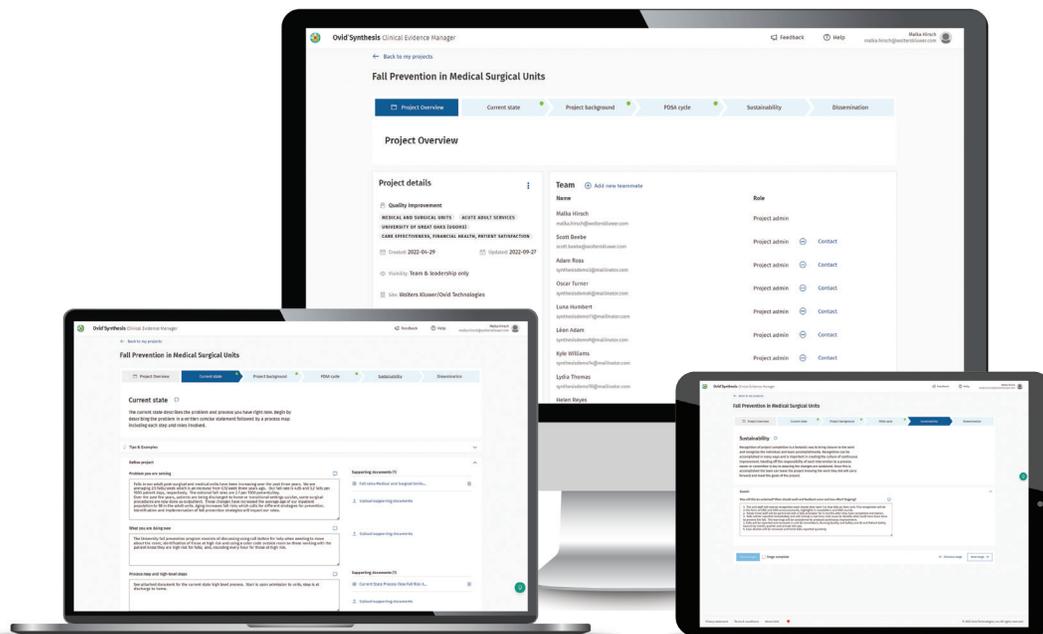
Ovid® Synthesis from Wolters Kluwer is a technology-based workflow solution designed to give nurses the tools and support they need to enable evidence-based care. Ovid Synthesis is designed to be used throughout the entire nursing trajectory — from undergraduate and graduate academic institutions to nurse residency programs in hospitals and healthcare institutions where they practice.

Ovid Synthesis provides a structured framework using standardized and customizable templates and embedded, step-by-step decision-support tools at every stage. Nurses, researchers, professors, managers, and mentors, use Ovid Synthesis to create focused PICO questions, carry out comprehensive literature searches, aggregate and curate the most relevant findings, and disseminate the findings so others can benefit from the effort.

The dashboard functionality lets faculty members and project managers view, track, and manage EBP and QI projects that are underway by multiple students at any given time. Centralizing the workflow associated with multiple concurrent projects and providing dashboard access helps faculty minimize duplication of effort among students. Having a real-time dashboard view of every student's project status also helps the faculty member focus and prioritize their time and outreach efforts, allowing for quick intervention if a student may be faltering or heading off in the wrong direction.

A critical consideration for any academic institution is how Ovid Synthesis helps to level the playing field and ensure a consistent experience for all nursing students. This is important because both tenured and adjunct faculty members typically bring varying expertise in framing PICO questions and conducting effective literature searches and reviews to identify the most relevant related clinical evidence. Such variability can impact the quality of the education any nursing student receives when it comes to developing the critical thinking skills and capabilities needed to carry out EBP in their profession.

***Ovid® Synthesis is a technology-based workflow solution designed to give nurses the tools and support they need.***



To save time and effort, Ovid Synthesis organizes critical information from the literature search into an easy-to-use evidence table. It provides embedded tools that allow for collaboration by both students and faculty, who can view, access, and comment on in-progress projects. This helps to enhance overall visibility, break down silos, improve communication, and foster a collaborative study and work environment for maximum benefit.

The effective dissemination of key findings that can help to address any PICO question is an equally important aspect of EBP and QI in nursing. Ovid Synthesis provides easy-to-use export features that allow users to organize, present, and disseminate their literature search findings internally and externally, using a variety of standardized formats that include Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, poster and manuscript formats, and more. Such tools help nursing students, their peers, and professors collaborate more effectively and make the most meaningful use of the data-driven findings and best practices as a result of their research.

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## Closing thoughts

When well-designed technology is integrated into nursing school and hospital settings, it provides an essential bridge to supporting the development of a world-class nursing workforce — with practitioners well-schooled in EBP and QI. Moreover, such investments provide their own rewards in terms of improved clinical outcomes for patients, improved financial outcomes for hospitals and healthcare settings, improved reputational capital for both nursing schools and healthcare settings, and improved nursing satisfaction and retention.

For all nursing students, the knowledge and capabilities gained during their academic years are not the end – but the beginning – of a profession that demands lifelong learning. Forward-looking academic nursing programs must invest in robust, state-of-the-art technology to guide and empower students in crafting relevant PICO questions and carrying out literature searches. Their gained clinical insights and best practices to support EBP and QI ensure nursing students are knowledgeable, resourceful, competent, and confident in their abilities as they move from academic settings to professional nursing practice.

## References

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*Jane Barnsteiner, PhD, RN, FAAN, Editor of Translational Research and QI, American Journal of Nursing, and Professor Emerita, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing*