

Questions as Prompts to Teach Clinical Judgment

Steps/Phases of Clinical Judgment	Sample Questions as Prompts
Recognizing cues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What findings are most significant? ▪ What additional information is needed to decide what is wrong with this patient? ▪ What data are relevant/not relevant? ▪ What information should be collected first? As a priority in the assessment? ▪ What findings need follow up? ▪ What questions should the nurse ask (the patient, the family, others) in the assessment?
Analyzing Cues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What patient problems/conditions/diagnoses are consistent with these findings? ▪ What findings did you expect? ▪ What additional information would help you better understand the significance of these findings? ▪ Are there data of particular concern to you? Why?
Identifying possible problems/generating hypothesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are possible explanations of the patient's condition? Explain your thinking. ▪ Based on the information in the scenario, what are all possible problems the patient might have? ▪ Considering possible problems of this patient, what is the priority? Why? ▪ If the patient's symptoms were X, how would that change your thinking about the patient's condition?
Identifying interventions/generating solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Which outcomes are most important for this patient? In this situation? ▪ What interventions are indicated? ▪ What evidence supports each of these interventions? ▪ In what ways will the interventions promote the expected outcomes of care? ▪ Are there interventions to avoid? Which ones and why?
Implementing interventions/taking action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What interventions are most appropriate? ▪ What interventions should be done first? Why? ▪ What actions should be taken now? ▪ What information would you teach the patient/caregiver prior to discharge? ▪ What information, event, or situation should be reported immediately to the manager/health care team/other? Why?
Evaluating Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are important findings to monitor to determine if the patient is improving? ▪ Is this patient improving? Why or why? ▪ Are the interventions effective? If not, what other interventions and approaches should be considered? ▪ What observations would you make, or questions would you ask to assess if the patient/caregiver knows how to (perform the procedure, give oneself the treatment, follow the protocol)?