

Template of Clinical Reasoning Questions to Develop Nurse Thinking

(Formulate and reflect before and after report, but BEFORE seeing patient the first time)

1. *What is the primary problem and what is the underlying cause/pathophysiology of this problem?*
2. *What clinical data from the chart is RELEVANT and needs to be trended because it is clinically significant?*
3. *What nursing priority captures the “essence” of your patient’s current status and will guide your plan of care?*
4. *What nursing interventions will you initiate based on this priority and what are the desired outcomes?*
5. *What body system(s) will you most thoroughly assess based on your patient’s primary problem or nursing care priority?*
6. *What is the worst possible/most likely complication(s) to anticipate based on the primary problem?*
7. *What nursing assessments will identify this complication EARLY if it develops?*
8. *What nursing interventions will you initiate if this complication develops?*

While Providing Care...*(Review and note during shift after initial patient assessment)*

9. *What clinical assessment data did you just collect that is RELEVANT and needs to be TRENDED because it is clinically significant to detect a change in status?*
10. *Does your nursing priority or plan of care need to be modified in any way after assessing your patient?*
11. *After reviewing the primary care provider’s note, what is the rationale for any new orders or changes made?*
12. *What educational priorities have you identified and how will you address them?*

Caring and the “Art” of Nursing

13. *What is the patient likely experiencing/feeling right now in this situation?*
14. *What can I do to engage myself with this patient’s experience, and show that he/she matters to me as a person?*