Nursing Abstract Guidelines

Professional Practice Gap:

The professional practice gap is the difference between the current state of practice and the desired state of practice. It is important to note that a professional practice gap may exist for registered nurses or health care teams regardless of the practice setting. Professional practice gaps are not limited to clinical practice and may also exist in areas of professional work such as administration, education, and research.

Example:

Current State: Nurses involved in acute stroke care are not monitoring for compliance to the "Core Measures for Stroke Care" in their clinical practice.

Desired State: Nurses involved in acute stroke care consistently monitor for compliance with the "Core Measures for Stroke Care" in their clinical practice.

Identified Gap: Nurses involved in acute stroke care do not know they should monitor for compliance with the "Core Measures for Stroke Care".

Evidence of Professional Practice Gap:

What evidence will you use to validate the professional practice gap? Multiple methods and types of data may be used.

Examples:

- Survey data from stakeholders, target audience members, subject matter experts or similar
- Input from stakeholders such as learners, managers, or subject matter experts
- Evidence from quality studies and/or performance improvement activities to identify opportunities for improvement
- Evaluation data from previous education activities
- Trends in literature, law and healthcare
- Direct observation

Learning Outcome:

A learning outcome is written as a statement that reflects what the learner will be able to do as a result of participating in the educational activity. The learning outcome must be observable and measurable. The learning outcome addresses the educational needs (knowledge, skills, and/or practices) that contribute to the professional practice gap and achieving the learning outcome results in narrowing or closing the gap. A learning outcome may be assessed in the short term or long term. There may be more than one learning outcome for an educational activity.

Example:

Nurses involved in acute stroke care will monitor for compliance with the "Core Measures for Stroke Care" in their clinical practice.

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Outcome Measurement:

Outcome measurement is the process of observing, describing, and quantifying the predefined indicator(s) of performance after an intervention designed to impact the indicator.

Example:

Nurses involved in acute stroke care will demonstrate monitoring for compliance with the "Core Measures for Stroke Care" in their clinical practice.

Methods of Evaluation:

Short-term evaluation options:

• Intent to change practice
• Active participation in learning activity
• Post-test
• Return demonstration
• Case study analysis
• Role-play

Long-term evaluation options:

• Self-reported change in practice
• Change in quality outcome measure
• Return on Investment (ROI)
• Observation of performance

Summary of Process:

Current state	Desired state	Identified gap	Evidence to validate gap	Gap due to knowledge, skill and/or practice	Learning outcome	Method of evaluation
What is currently happening	What should be happening	Difference between what is and what should be	What evidence do you have to validate the current state	Why do you think the current state exists? What is the underlying or root cause?	What do you want learners to be able to do (demonstrate) as a result of participating in this activity	How are you going to measure (evaluate) that change?

Commercial Bias

All materials used for the educational activity must be free from commercial bias. To guard against the presence of commercial bias, please ensure the following:

1. Slides, handouts and other materials should not display any logos or other trademarks of a Commercial Interest Organization

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2. Live (in-person) educational activities are presented without reference to a Commercial Interest Organization; acknowledgement of commercial support is limited to the name of the entity providing support

3. Web-based materials do not include logos, other trademarks or other insignia of, or reference to, a Commercial Interest Organization; acknowledgement of commercial support is limited to the name of the entity providing support

4. Evaluations of the educational activity make no reference to a commercial Interest Organization or its products or services

5. Learners are not recruited for any purpose during the activity or evaluation.