Purpose of Assignment

The purpose of this paper is to define a clinical problem, review the literature for appropriate research supported nursing interventions, critique current practice and provide a plan for changing or adapting clinical practice.

Student Approach to Assignment

I chose medications errors to focus on because this was a prevalent problem at my place of work. I first discussed all of the problems involved and the many aspects that contributes to medication errors. I gave examples for the contributing factors that have lead to medication errors at my place of work. Next I discussed the differences between formal and informal mechanisms for how procedures associated with medications are handled at my place work. Then I explained why there are differences between formal and informal procedures. After that I came up with three interventions utilizing peer reviewed, current studies to combat all the reasons behind medication errors at my place of work.

Reason for Inclusion of this Assignment in the Portfolio

I felt that this assignment taught me how analyze clinical problems and come up with a plan of action to correct these problems using peer reviewed, current literature. This assignment entailed using critical thinking and good judgment skills.

Critical Outcomes

* Critical Thinking
  + Uses decision-making skills in making clinical or professional practice
    - Example: For this paper I had to use decision-making skills to assess the medication problems at my place of work, decide what the contributing factors to these problems were, and come up with interventions to remedy those problems in the future. The contributing factors I came up with were the following: lack of appropriate staffing, nurses not following company policies and procedures, time constraints, distractions, medication packaging, inadequate ebox procedures, fatigue, and stress. The three therapeutic interventions I came up with, using peer reviewed, current literature were the following: new ebox procedures, management addressing medication errors with the nursing staff as a whole as to implement ideas on how to combat these problems, and hiring more nurses along with taking non-nursing tasks away from the nurse’s responsibilities.
• **Evaluates nursing care outcomes through the acquisition of data and the questioning of inconsistencies**
  
  o Example: This assignment led me to evaluate nursing care outcomes related to combating medication errors. I discussed how a lot of these plans to combat medications errors dealt with ensuring the nurse is not distracted when preparing medications for administration, ensuring the nurse follows the 5 rights of medication administration along with the 3 checks system, utilizing different pharmaceutical companies in order to have different packaging and labeling, addressing nurse staffing and nursing duties along with what is the company policy and procedures to ensure job satisfaction, and standardization amongst the nurses. Inconsistencies were discussed in this paper concerning nursing tasks associated with medication procedures formal versus informal. These inconsistencies among nurses and procedures were discussed in this assignment along with interventions to resolve the multiple issues at my place of work.

• **Revises actions and goals based on evidence rather than conjecture**
  
  o Example: For this paper I came up with three interventions to revise actions that were leading to medical errors. I used peer reviewed, current data to back-up the reasons I decided were leading to medical errors. I also used peer reviewed, current data to assist me with coming up with three interventions that have been researched and studied to resolve the medical errors that were taking place at my place of work.

• **Engages in creative problem solving**
  
  o Example: For this assignment I had to be creative with my thought process on what the better ways of doing things at my place of work are. This is so that my interventions make sense, were plausible, and could be successful. I had to take into consideration the environment of my place of work, the staff, policies and procedures, management, laws and regulations, and what interventions have been studied to be proven successful.

♦ **Nursing Practice**

• **Applies appropriate knowledge of major health problems to guide nursing practice**
  
  o Example: This paper addressed the major problems of medical errors at my place of work, mainly focusing on medication errors. There are steps
in the process of preparing and administering medications. During the whole process there are many things that could potentially go wrong and lead to an error. These errors could have dire consequences. In the beginning of the paper I discussed how prevalent medication errors are throughout the United States and even the world. Medication errors are not just a problem for nurses, they are a problem for everyone involved in the health care industry. I researched many studies on why most medication errors occur as well as some of the best ways to counteract these issues.

- Performs direct and indirect therapeutic interventions that incorporate principles of quality management and proper safety techniques based upon assessment findings
  
  o Example: This assignment involved coming up with at least three therapeutic interventions to manage issues causing medication errors to promote safety, accuracy, and standardization. The three therapeutic interventions were new ebox procedures, management addressing medication errors with the nursing staff so that as a team the nursing staff can discuss ideas on how to combat the possible reasons for any medication errors, and hiring more nurses along with taking non-nursing tasks away from the nurse’s responsibilities.

- Communication

- Accesses and utilizes data and information from a wide range of sources to enhance patient and professional communication
  
  o Example: For this paper I used seven peer reviewed, current sources to back-up my thoughts of why medication errors are a problem at my place of work and to support my thoughts on the interventions I created to combat the medication errors at my place of work. One of the interventions was to have the nurse manager discuss medication errors, that have occurred at this place of work, with her nurses to address why medication errors happen. Also to address the best ways to prevent these errors from occurring again.

- Teaching

- Uses information technologies and other appropriate methods to enhance one's own knowledge
  
  o Example: To complete this assignment I utilized seven peer reviewed, current sources to support my thoughts and ideas. I learned about the most
common reasons that medication administration errors occur, and the best ways to combat these errors from occurring in the first place. Some examples of why medication errors occur are distractions during administration and similar packaging of different doses of medications. One of the interventions I came up was to increase staffing to reduce stress and increase job satisfaction.

❖ **Research**

- *Evaluates research that focuses on the efficacy and effectiveness of nursing interventions*
  
  o Example: I went over seven different peer reviewed, current sources to research why medication errors take place and how to best counteract those reasons. Safe medication administration is always in the patient’s best interest. Medications are a huge part of treatment during detox and it is important that medication administration is done accurately.

- *Shares research findings with colleagues*
  
  o Example: During the process of this assignment I shared my findings with colleagues and management. They all took what I was saying seriously. As a result of these discussions new changes have come about at this detox center. More staff have been hired, a pyxis is on the way, secretarial duties have been taken away from the nurses, and patients are no longer allowed in the nursing office because that can be distracting

❖ **Leadership**

- *Assumes a leadership role within one’s scope of practice as a designer, manager, and coordinator of health care to meet the special needs of vulnerable populations in a variety of practice settings*
  
  o Example: The practice setting for this paper took place at a detox center. Issues that cause medication errors were discussed and interventions to help combat those issues were also discussed. While completing this paper I discussed these issues with co-workers and the nurse manager. Since these conversations more nurses and techs have been hired, we are soon to get a pyxis to get rid of the ebox issues, and patients are no longer allowed in the nurses station as to decrease distraction during medication preparation. I felt like a leader in initiating these awesome changes at my place of work. The increased staffing has definitely increased job satisfaction for everyone there.
• **Articulate the values of the profession and the role of the nurse as member of the interdisciplinary health care team**
  
  o  Example: This paper expresses how important nurses are in every health field. The nurses, at the detox center that was discussed in this paper, provide all the care and observations of the patients 24/7. They followed the orders from the physician and nurse practitioner and used their judgment skills and critical thinking to make decisions on what PRN medications to give and when the physician needs to be called to discuss a change in medication. This paper indicates that nurses have a lot on their plate, such as secretarial duties while being short staffed.

❖ **Professionalism**

• **Differentiates between general, institutional, and adherence to standards of practice and legal and ethical principles**
  
  o  Example: I used general guidelines for safe medication procedures and discussed the importance of following standards and procedures to ensure safe medication administration. When medication preparation is rushed through and steps are skipped it is unethical. Nurses need a little help when it comes to appropriate medication administration. This help involves appropriate staffing, less distractions, and better procedures and policy to follow. All of that was discussed in this paper for this detox center.

❖ **Culture**

• **Maintains an awareness of global environmental factors that may influence the delivery of health care services**
  
  o  Example: Global awareness factors were discussed in this paper through how issues that cause medication errors are globally a problem. Some of these global issues are lack of nurse staffing and distractions during medication preparation and administration. I researched on how these issues are problematic for all nursing fields around the world.