



# Nursing Guide to a Culture of Inquiry

Is there an answer to your clinical question or clinical problem?

**Before starting any project obtain approval from your service line director / manager, in addition to Education Department if you are doing a school project.**

## Research

Insufficient evidence to establish a Standard of Care / answer to the clinical question. Quantitative or Qualitative research is used to validate a hypothesis between variables or for the phenomenon of interest to be more fully explored.

**AIM of Research — To describe and gain insight and knowledge on a phenomenon where there is insufficient evidence.**

**Steps:** Contact NRC (Nursing Research Council) (NursingEBP@elcaminohealth.org) and the Taft Center for Clinical Research at 650-691-4894 for assistance.

- Go to the Clinical Research section in the toolbox to find the “Clinical Research New Study Questionnaire” (NSQ).
- Identify the research problem.
- Review the literature.
- Define your research purpose / population / methods / procedures / statistical analysis / data collection / risks.
- Obtain human subjects training / certification — PHRP (Protecting Human Research Participants).

## EBP (Evidence Based Practice)

Sufficient research is available to guide the development of a clinical or practice standard, but has not been synthesized fully or widely adopted in our El Camino Health practice environment.

**AIM of EBP — To translate the available validated research to drive practice changes in our El Camino Health clinical setting.**

**Steps:** Contact NRC (Nursing Research Council) (NursingEBP@elcaminohealth.org).

- El Camino Health uses the Johns Hopkins EBP Model. Resources are available on the NRC Committee Tool Box site EBP tab, and on Healthstream in the Catalog listed as “Evidence Based Nursing Practice: The Johns Hopkins Model”.
- Review the evidence / literature.
- Translation of evidence to a practice change and best practice improvement.
- The project could require IRB review if it involves risk for human subjects.

## QI (Quality Improvement)

There are established Standards of Care already in practice at El Camino Health. Explores the links between Nursing Care and Patient Outcomes with a focus on safety. (Benchmarking against national standards if available).

**AIM of QI — To achieve consistency in meeting or achieving Standards of Care that are already established with continuous monitoring to improve.**

**Steps:** (PLAN / DO / STUDY / ACT)  
Contact El Camino Health, Quality Manager at 650-988-3293.

- Literature review.
- Measure quality of care.
- Develop interdisciplinary team.
- Develop protocol to address practice gaps.
- Optimize EMR to support goals.
- Measure outcomes.

## PI LEAN (Performance Improvement)

A focus on internal modeling of processes through teamwork to deliver the value needed to reach the strategic goals of El Camino Health.

**AIM of PI — To transform processes to increase output, efficiency, and effectiveness for high quality patient care.**

**Steps:** LEAN SIX SIGMA; Contact El Camino Health, Manager of Performance Improvement at 650-962-4997.

- Define
- Measure
- Analyze
- Improve
- Control



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