

Chapter 1: Introduction to Nursing Research in an Evidence-Based Practice Environment

Format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 1

Client Needs: Safe and Effective Care Environment:
Management of Care

Cognitive Level: Application

Difficulty: Moderate

Integrated Process: Nursing Process

Page and Header: 2, What Is Nursing Research?

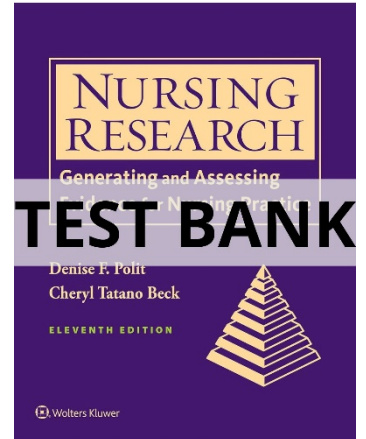
1. Which group is best served by clinical nursing research?

- A) Nursing administrators
- B) Practicing nurses
- C) Nurses' clients
- D) Nurse researchers

Ans: C

Feedback:

Nursing research is systematic inquiry designed to develop trustworthy evidence about issues of importance to the nursing profession. Although nursing research addresses such areas as nursing education, administration, and informatics, clinical nursing research has become prominent because it is the basis for evidence-based practice. Clinical nursing research is designed to guide nursing practice and to improve the health and quality of life of nurses' clients, not the researchers who conducted the study or nursing administrators.



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Page and Header: 2, What Is Nursing Research?

2. Which sentence is an example of a clinical nursing research question?
- A) What percentage of nurses has a master's or doctorate degree?
 - B) What factors influence clients' weight gain following a smoking cessation intervention?
 - C) In what ways do nursing students benefit from a course on evidence-based practice?
 - D) What is the appropriate course of action when a nurse is faced with a moral dilemma?

Ans: B

Feedback:

The answers to clinical nursing research questions have the potential to improve the health and quality of life of their clients. Clinical nursing research questions focus directly on clients' needs, experiences, and health behaviors, and the answers to such questions can inform nurses' decisions or lead to strategies to improve nursing practice.

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Client Needs: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

Cognitive Level: Application

Difficulty: Easy

Integrated Process: Nursing Process

Page and Header: 2, The Importance of Research in Nursing

3. Which goal is the highest priority for research in the nursing profession?
- A) To generate evidence to inform nurses' decisions and actions
 - B) To conduct research focused on the context of nursing practice
 - C) To document the role that nurses serve in society
 - D) To establish priorities for areas of study by nurse researchers

Ans: A

Feedback:

There is considerable agreement that research findings from rigorous studies can provide especially strong evidence for informing nurses' decisions and actions.

Nurses are accepting the need to base specific nursing actions and decisions on research evidence indicating that the actions are clinically appropriate, cost-effective, and result in positive outcomes for clients.

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Client Needs: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

Cognitive Level: Comprehension

Difficulty: Moderate

Integrated Process: Nursing Process

Page and Header: 2, The Importance of Research in Nursing

4. In the United States, in what area does research play an important role for the nursing profession?

- A) Nurses' opportunities for practicing internationally
- B) Credentialing and the status of nursing
- C) Nurses' salaries and work environments
- D) Nurses' education

Ans: B

Feedback:

In the United States, research plays an important role in nursing in terms of credentialing and status. In particular, research and efforts to promote evidence-based practice (EBP) are key elements of the Magnet Recognition Program. Changes to nursing practice now occur regularly because of EBP efforts, and these efforts enhance the status of the profession.

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Client Needs: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

Cognitive Level: Analysis

Difficulty: Moderate

Integrated Process: Nursing Process

Page and Header: 3, The Consumer–Producer Continuum in Nursing Research

5. What is the role of consumers of nursing research?
- A) Reading research reports to find evidence that is relevant to nursing practice
 - B) Participating in generating evidence by doing research
 - C) Gathering information from clients that can be used in research
 - D) Solving clinical problems and making clinical decisions

Ans: A

Feedback:

Knowledge of nursing research enhances the professional practice of both consumers of research (who read and appraise studies) and producers of research (who design and undertake studies). Between these two points on the consumer–producer continuum lies a rich variety of research activities in which nurses may engage. These activities include contributing an idea for a study, advising clients about their participation in a study, searching for research evidence, and making clinical decisions based on rigorous research.

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Cognitive Level: Analysis

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Page and Header: 3, The Consumer–Producer Continuum in Nursing Research

6. Which activity occurs in a journal club?
- A) Development of an idea for a journal article
 - B) Presentation by a research article’s author about the article’s central ideas
 - C) Testing of participants on their comprehension of selected journal articles
 - D) Discussion of a research article regarding its relevance to practice

Ans: D

Feedback:

A journal club occurs in many practice settings, as an opportunity to share and discuss new evidence of relevance to clinicians. Journal clubs sometimes involve face-to-face group meetings but also can involve online discussions to

accommodate diverse schedules. Participants in a journal club do not develop ideas for a journal article, hear a presentation by a researcher, or get tested on journal article content.

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Page and Header: 3, Nursing Research in Historical Perspective

7. On which topic did most nursing studies focus in the early 1900s?

- A) Client satisfaction
- B) Clinical problems
- C) Translational research
- D) Nursing education

Ans: D

Feedback:

Most studies in the early 1900s concerned nurses' education rather than clinical or client-related issues. In the 1960s, practice-oriented research on various clinical topics began to emerge in the literature. During the 1970s, improvements in client care became a more visible priority—signifying a growing awareness by nurses of the need for an evidence base from which to practice and, more recently, the need to understand how to translate findings into practice.

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Page and Header: 5, Current and Future Directions for Nursing Research

8. Which broad goal most closely conforms to the priorities that have been suggested for nursing research in the future?
- A) Cultivating positive attitudes among nurses toward professional growth
 - B) Promoting excellence in nursing science
 - C) Improving nurses' morale and reducing turnover
 - D) Increasing the number of healthcare organizations with Magnet® status

Ans: B

Feedback:

The broad priority for future nursing research is the promotion of excellence in nursing science. Toward this end, nurse researchers and practicing nurses will be sharpening their research skills and using those skills to address emerging issues of importance to the profession and its clientele.

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Page and Header: 5, Current and Future Directions for Nursing Research

9. Which is emerging as a prominent direction for the future of nursing research?

- A) Promoting journal clubs in healthcare settings
- B) Converting consumers of research to producers of research
- C) Emphasizing patient centeredness in research
- D) Enhancing the use of inductive reasoning

Ans: C

Feedback:

Patient centeredness is a growing concern in research, as in the care of clients. More attention is being paid to involving clients in research decisions and in ensuring that research is relevant to clients and their caretakers. Promoting journal clubs, enhancing the use of inductive reasoning, and increasing the cadre

of nurse researchers are desirable but are not prominent directions in nursing research.

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Page and Header: 6, Sources of Evidence for Nursing Practice

10. If nurses make decisions by following "unit culture" practices, they are using which source of evidence?

- A) Tradition and authority
- B) Intuition
- C) Logical reasoning
- D) Disciplined research

Ans: A

Feedback:

Many decisions are made based on the guidance of an authority. These types of knowledge are so much a part of a common heritage that few challenge their efficacy or seek verification. Such "sacred cows" are widely used to guide practice but are a weaker form of knowledge than disciplined research.

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Page and Header: 7, Logical Reasoning

11. What does the process of deductive reasoning entail?

- A) Verifying assumptions that are part of our heritage

- B) Developing specific predictions from general principles or theories
- C) Drawing conclusions based on trial and error
- D) Forming generalizations from specific observations

Ans: B

Feedback:

Deductive reasoning is the process of developing specific predictions from general principles. Inductive reasoning is the process of developing generalizations from specific observations. Deductive reasoning does not involve the verification of assumptions about tradition nor coming to conclusions based on trial and error.

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Page and Header: 8, The Positivist Paradigm

12. What is a major assumption in the positivist paradigm?

- A) Reality is "out there" and can be objectively studied, known, and understood
- B) Objectivity is considered unrealistic and unattainable
- C) Deconstruction is essential to understanding the real world
- D) Reality is not fixed but is rather a construction of human minds

Ans: A

Feedback:

A fundamental assumption of positivists is that there is a reality "out there" that can be scrutinized and understood through research. In the positivist paradigm, nature is assumed to be ordered, and reality exists independent of human observation. Objectivity is considered an important goal.

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Page and Header: 8, The Constructivist Paradigm

13. What is a central assumption of the constructivist paradigm?

- A) Reality and natural phenomena are regular and orderly
- B) Phenomena are not haphazard and result from prior causes
- C) Reality is not fixed; it is multiply constructed and multiply interpreted by humans
- D) Values can and should be held in check in studying the real world

Ans: C

Feedback:

In the constructivist (naturalistic) paradigm, in contrast to the positivist paradigm, it is assumed that reality is not fixed and orderly but is rather a construction of human minds; thus, "truth" is a composite of multiple constructions of reality. Researchers are not expected to hold values in check in conducting research.

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Page and Header: 9, The Scientific Method and Quantitative Research

14. The traditional scientific method is associated with which paradigm?

- A) Postmodern paradigm
- B) Positivist paradigm
- C) Constructivist paradigm
- D) Naturalistic paradigm

Ans: B

Feedback:

The traditional scientific method involves the use of procedures that are orderly, systematic, and objective, consistent with the positivist paradigm. A key assumption of this paradigm is that values and biases of researchers can be held in check through disciplined strategies of inquiry that are tightly controlled. The constructivist (naturalistic) paradigm does not adhere rigidly to the tenets of the scientific method. Postmodernism is not a paradigm.

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Page and Header: 9, The Scientific Method and Quantitative Research

15. Which is a characteristic of the traditional scientific method?

- A) A flexible, emergent design
- B) Inductive reasoning
- C) A holistic view of a phenomenon, studied in a rich context
- D) Systematic measurement and observation of natural phenomena

Ans: D

Feedback:

The scientific method refers to a set of orderly, disciplined procedures that are used to acquire information, and this includes the systematic measurement (quantification) of natural phenomena. The investigator gathers quantified data (the measurements) in a systematic, preplanned manner, using methods that are consistent across study participants. Constructivist researchers tend to emphasize the dynamic, holistic, and individual aspects of human life and attempt to capture those aspects in their entirety, within the context of those who are experiencing them.

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