

Part II

**The Nurse as
Caregiver**

Chapter 7

**Clinical Decision
Making and the
Nursing Process**



Learning Objectives

By the end of this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Define the stages of clinical judgment.
2. Explain the steps in problem solving.
3. Explain the steps in decision making.
4. Explain the steps in the nursing process.
5. Develop a care plan using the steps in the nursing process.
6. Develop a concept map.



Key Terms

- Assessment
- Clinical judgment
- Concept map
- Decision making
- Decision tree
- Diagnosis
- Evaluation
- Gantt chart
- Implementation
- Nursing interventions
- Nursing process
- Outcome identification
- PERT chart
- Planning nursing care
- Problem solving



Chapter Scenario

A new nurse is assessing a patient and has good abilities in assessing the client and gathering in-depth details ... but ... what happens when it is unclear what all that data means?

→ **Think about it!**

- Should new nurses be able to conclude what the real problem is after gathering their assessment data?
- Does seeking advice from someone else make a nurse incompetent?
- Is it appropriate to seek advice and from whom does one seek that advice?



Introduction

- It is imperative for nurses to make quick, accurate, and effective decisions.
- Steps in clinical judgment, problem solving, and decision making.
- The nursing process helps nurses work through these tasks.



Clinical Judgment – Develops with Experience and Progresses over Time

Benner's Stages of Clinical Judgment Development

- Novice stage
- Advanced beginning stage
- Competent stage
- Professional stage
- Expert stage



Critical Thinking

1. Where do you fit into these stages of development?
2. Can you identify others around you in different stages?



Problem Solving

- Identify the problem.
- Generate possible solutions.
- Choose the best solution.
- Implement the chosen solution.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the solution.



Decision Making

- Critical thinking
- Not always about solving a problem
- Supplies an immediate solution or action
- Charts and graphs to assist in the process

Decision Making – Best Options Determined Through Critical Thinking

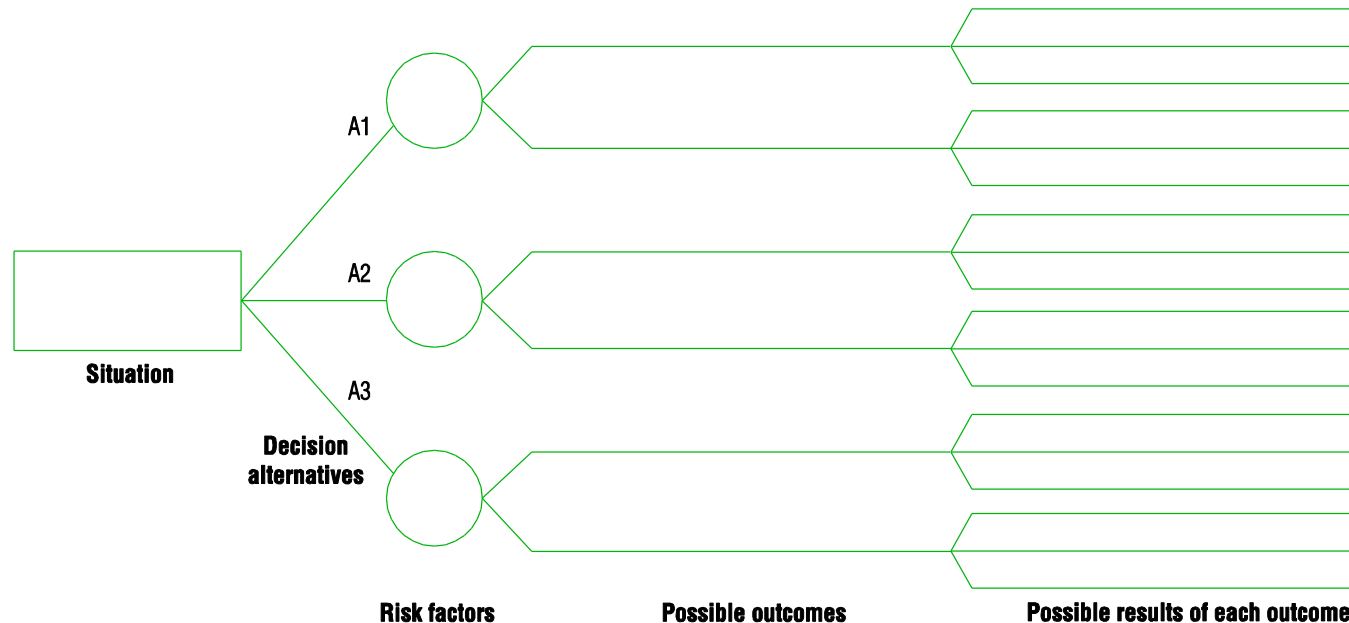


Figure 7-1 Decision Tree

Decision Making – Using Gantt Charts

Task	Responsible person	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Figure 7-3 Gantt Chart

Decision Making – Using PERT Charts

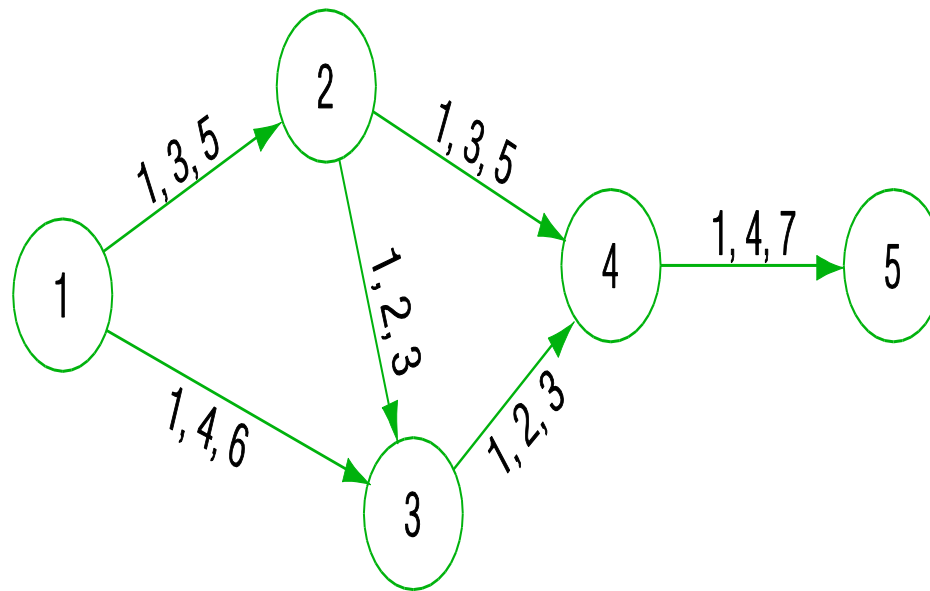


Figure 7-4 PERT Chart



Critical Thinking

How do you currently make decisions?

- Personal
- Professional
- Real-life examples

The Nursing Process = Discipline-Specific Method Used for Decision Making

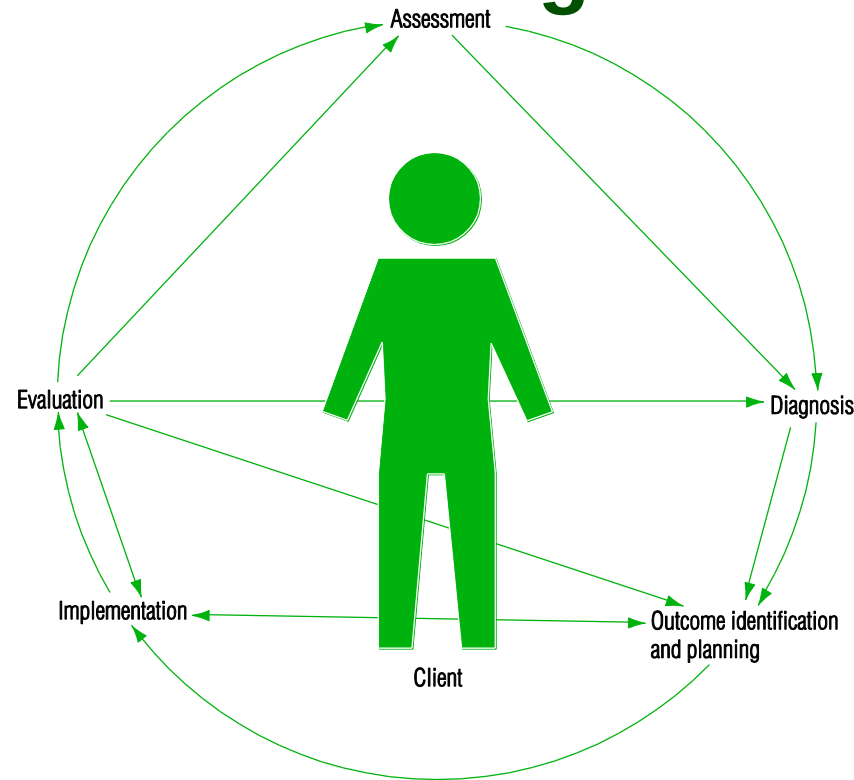


Figure 7-5 The Nursing Process Is Integrated and Circular



Nursing Process Assessment Steps (Box 7-1)

- Data collection
- Data validation
- Data organization
- Data categories or patterns
- Drawing data inferences
- Data recording and reporting



The Nursing Process

Refer to Table 7-1

Critical-thinking questions for use with each step
of the nursing process



Application

How are you working
through this process?



Concept Mapping

- Complementary of care plan
- Shows a “picture” of the plan of care
- Another way to present the client data
- Presents key concepts
- Shows relationships between client conditions and aspects of care.
- Develops critical thinking by prioritizing data
- Organization for plan of care



Steps in Developing a Concept Map

1. Choose a client, a disease, or main theme around which the concept map is developed.
2. Prioritize the main concepts of the client, disease, or theme.
3. Develop the basis diagram.
4. Place all the data on the concept map in an organized manner.
5. Draw lines to show the relationship between the data.
6. Develop interventions to address the client's condition or the chosen disease.



Chapter Summary

- The nursing process assists nurses in developing expert clinical decision-making skills.
- The nursing process can help build a stronger knowledge base and help in decision making.
- Critical thinking helps make good decisions → quality client care.



Chapter Reflections

1. What stage of development in the Benner model is Tameka?
2. What skills did Tameka use when she decided to seek advice from a more experienced co-worker?
3. If you were in Tameka's position, would you view yourself as an incompetent nurse? Is her action appropriate? Why or why not?
4. Using the decision-making steps discussed in this chapter, what would you do to address Tameka's client scenario?



Personal and Professional Reflections

1. Think of similar situations in your own practice ... how did you respond?
2. Would you do anything differently if you had to do it all over again?
3. How does one learn to determine what to do in each situation?
4. Is there one person who always has all the right answers?
5. Does being a nurse mean you'll always know what to do?
6. Does becoming an "RN" mean you'll always know just what to do?
7. What do you anticipate to change in your decision-making abilities as you become an RN?