**NUR-722: NURSING ADMINISTRATION: SEMINAR AND ROLE PRACTICUM**

**Selecting a Project Idea**

**OVERVIEW**

When reviewing the Project Idea Form with your proctor, think about processes of care within work environments where you have knowledge of current processes. Then think about it in the context of the nursing process.

Consider, for example, the rise in CAUTIs in the ICU. The Infection Preventionist is concerned about the rise in the number of CAUTIs in the ICU during the past six months. The use of daily assessments for the need for urinary catheters (UC) is non-existent or inconsistently practiced. Patients are at greater risk when UCs are left in place greater than five days as evidenced by increase in CAUTIs. Decreasing UC days is associated with decreased CAUTIs. This would be the problem that the practicum project would begin with.

An example of an intervention for this practicum project would be:

1. Using specific criteria, assess daily for need for UC.
2. Follow the protocol for pericare.
3. Remove the UCs when appropriate.
4. Develop a standardized process for auditing the number of UC days.
5. Consider male and female external urinary management systems (UMS) as appropriate.

The outcome we would hope to measure with this intervention would be something like this:

1. Over the next month, UC days will decrease by 10%.
2. Use of alternative methods of UMS will increase by 20%.

While this is a clinical example of a practicum project, in your areas, think about a process that is needed or needs to be improved. The above example is specific, measurable, and within the scope of the MSN student to influence and manage.

Other ideas include:

* implementing or developing a standardized acuity tool
* improving the way advanced directives are managed
* improving door to drug times in the ED for stroke management

These are just a few ideas to help guide you. Your preceptor will help you in the work setting while your mentor will guide you through the course assignments. Deciding on a project will need to occur early in the course. This will allow more time to develop and implement your project.