

Identifying and Writing Practice Gap Statement

Purpose

An effective practice gap statement clearly summarizes the state of current practice for care providers/teams in a given setting as compared to the desired practice state for those same providers/teams. Clearly identifying a practice gap is critical to the development of your educational activity; it identifies your learning objectives and your potential learning assessment opportunities. The process of identifying a practice gap is referred to as a **needs assessment** or **gap analysis**.

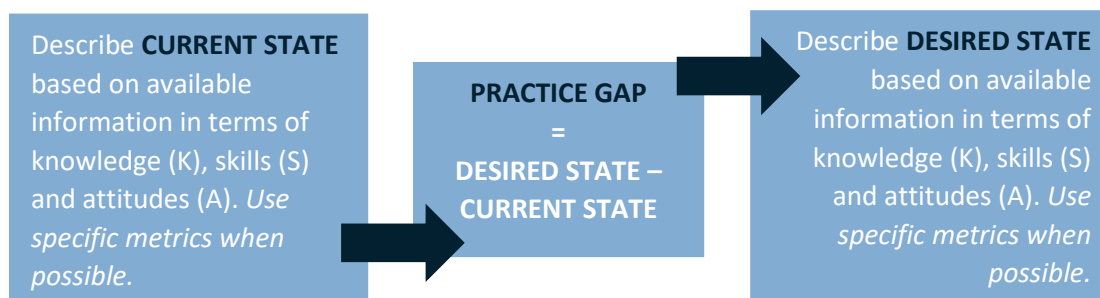
Data Sources

Clinical Guidelines
Consensus Reports
Clinician Surveys
Difficult Cases
Expert Consensus

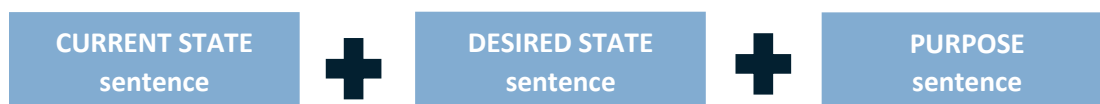
Faculty Surveys
Government Sources
New Technology/Methods
Patient Outcomes Data
Patient Surveys

Performance Targets
Peer Reviewed Research
Publicly Reported Metrics
Quality Improvement Data
Root Cause Analyses

Identify Practice Gap



3-Sentence Structure



Example: Currently ¼ of patients with ‘clinically probable’ Parkinson’s disease (PD) do not actually have the disease, and about 21% of patients incorrectly diagnosed with another movement disorder have PD [**current state**]. Our goal is to reduce the PD misdiagnosis rate by 5% over the next 12 months by employing evidence-based screening strategies [**desired state**]. The **purpose** of this education is to increased utilization of effective screening tools in order to improve the accuracy of the diagnosis

1-Sentence Structure

This [**NAME OF ACTIVITY**] is designed to [**ACTION BEING TAKEN TO ADDRESS PRACTICE GAP**] in order to [**DESIRED STATE**].

Example: This oncology case conference is designed to review existing cases and apply the most current evidence-based knowledge and guidelines in order to establish patient care plans for improved patient outcomes.

References

Sharp CME Faculty Development Series – Writing a Practice Gap Statement (2020)