

Practice Gap Analysis

A problem exists when a healthcare professional lacks the knowledge and/or skills for the desired performance.

An educational activity should correct the problem by teaching knowledge or skills that can be assessed and/or practiced by the learner with feedback during the educational activity.

Demystifying the Practice Gap

Ask Yourself:

What problem do you want to solve?

What is current practice?

What knowledge or skills can you teach?
How can education help?



Learning Objectives

Solution or desired outcome

What is desired practice?

Information provided courtesy of:

Gaps exist when healthcare professionals:

- Are not doing everything they could
- Are not doing things correctly
- Could improve in what they are doing

Gaps can be in:

- Knowledge
- Competence
- Performance
- Patient outcomes



Reasons for gaps could be:

- Inappropriate management of....
- Not applying current guidelines
- Unfamiliarity with updated standard of care
- Treatment not happening in a timely manner
- Lack of experience, education, or training
- Outdated practices that continue to be used
- Quality concerns
- Disease is difficult or challenging to treat
- Insufficient knowledge of developments in the treatment of a disease

Sources of information on professional practice gaps:

- Subject matter experts
- Literature review
- Survey data
- Epidemiologic data
- Clinical practice guidelines/quality improvement guidelines
- Evaluation data /learner suggestions
- Public health data
- Laws/regulations/accreditation requirements

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