Alternative Learning Strategies to Increase Clinical Judgment for the NCLEX Next Generation Exam

Elizabeth Nespor-Hartig, BSN, RN, Kerri Grummert, BSN, RN, Melina Olerich, BSN, RN
Faculty Advisor: Lina Bostwick, EdD, RN, CNE

Purpose:
To evaluate alternatives to traditional clinical experiences that can increase students' clinical judgment and clinical competencies in order to better prepare them for the Next Generation NCLEX exam.

PICO Question:
Do alternative learning opportunities in place of traditional clinical experiences aid in increasing pre-licensure nursing students' clinical judgment in order to better prepare them for the Next Generation NCLEX exam?
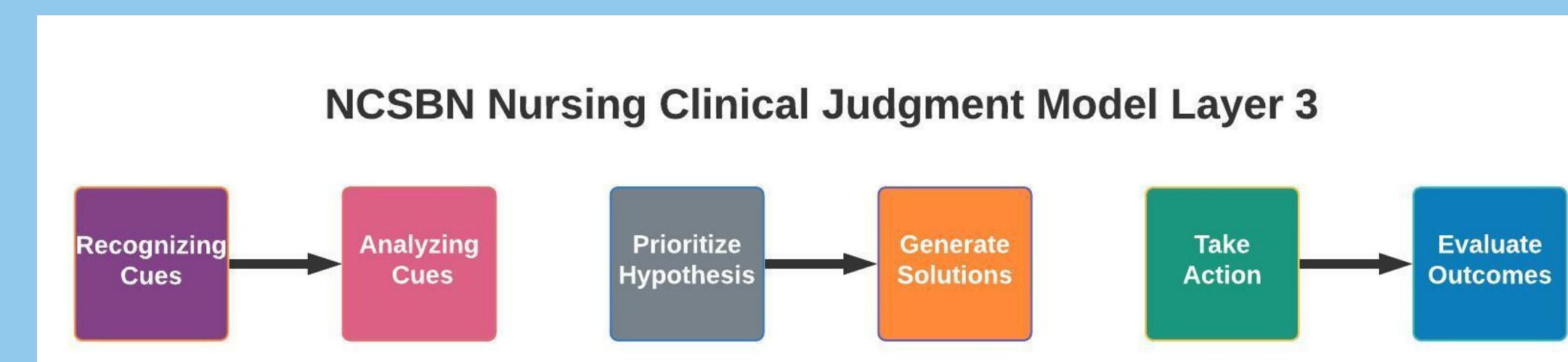
Background & Significance:
- Few studies found on traditional clinical
- Lack of clinical resources (Curl, E. D. et al, 2016)
- 65% of adverse events due to poor clinical decision-making
- 50% of those decisions are made by novice nurses
(The Right Decisions Come From the Right Questions, n.d.).
- Need for teaching strategies for clinical judgment (Cazzell & Anderson, 2016)

Literature Review:
- Historic study on simulation (Hayden et al., 2014)
- Simulation validation (Victor et al., 2017)
- Complex simulations (Salameh, et al., 2021)
- Case study validation (Hristova et al., 2021)
- Utilization of unfolding case studies (Hong & Yu, 2017)
- Versatility of reflections (Smith, 2021)
- Reflection validation (Wright & Scardaville, 2021)

Theoretical Framework:

NCSBN Nursing Clinical Judgment Model Layer 3

Recognizing Cues → Analyzing Cues   Prioritize Hypothesis → Generate Solutions   Take Action → Evaluate Outcomes

- Layer three is the measurable cognitive aspects of clinical decision making. (NCSBN Clinical Judgment Measurement Model, n.d.)
- NCSBN NCJM validation (Dickison et al., 2019)

Lewin's Change Theory:

Unfreeze → Change → Refreeze

Lewin's Change Theory (1947)

- Next Gen NCLEX exam
- Clinical Judgment integrated into curriculum
- Literature Review for alternatives
- Simulation, Case Study, and Reflection valid tools.
- Faculty need for evaluation and feedback

Methods:
Procedure:
- Fishbone diagram was utilized to determine a gap.
- Extensive Literature review conducted.

Identified Stakeholders:
- Schools of Nursing
- Nursing students
- General public

Smart Goals, PDSA cycles:
- Reviewed, categorized and coded all articles.
- Analyzed expert interviews for themes to

Coding procedure:
- Derived from the Huberman and Miles (1994) data analysis process.

Data Analysis:
- Spiral data analysis utilized.

Instructional designer:
- Collaborated with designer to represent results of project.

Ethical considerations:
- Articles were not reproduced or distributed.
- Expert's identities were protected.

Results:
See diagram

Implications for Practice:
- Simulation, Case Study, Reflection are valid alternatives.
- Educators need to implement clinical judgment into curriculum

Future Recommendations:
- Further studies to determine a standard evaluation tool (Gurkova et al., 2018)
- Faculty plan for evaluation tool
- Governing body evaluation tool
- Expert Interviews
- Administrators need to ensure educators have NextGen education

FACULTY — Evaluation — Feedback

Simulation

Reflection

Case Study

CLINICAL JUDGEMENT
Recognize Cues
Analyze Cues
Prioritize Hypothesis
Generate Solution
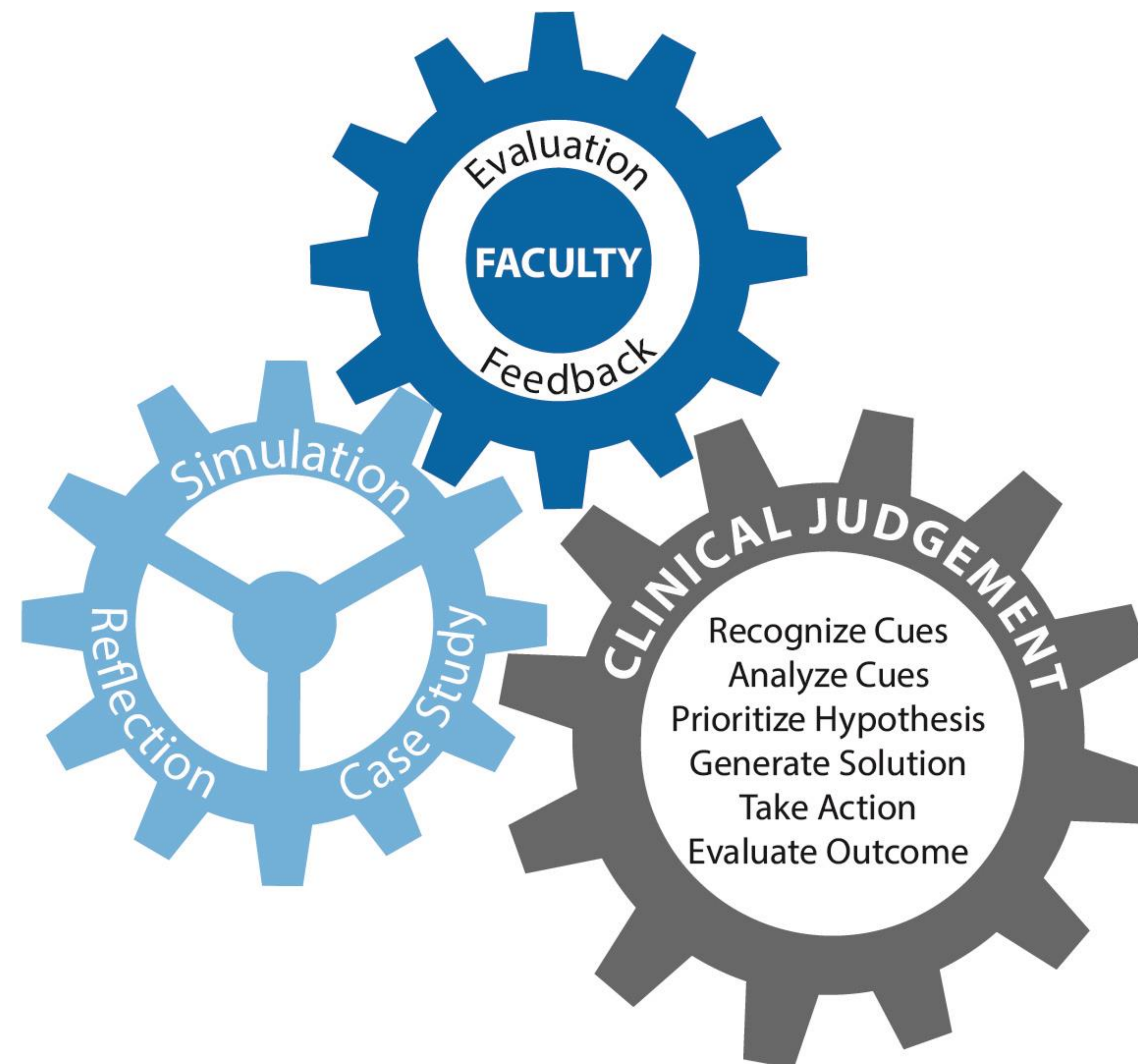Take Action
Evaluate Outcome

Image Created by: Elizabeth Nespor-Hartig, Kerri Grummert, and Melina Olerich (2021)

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