

Professional Practice Gap

The planning process is initiated after identifying that continuing nursing education or interprofessional continuing education might be an appropriate intervention to address a change to a standard of care, a problem that exists in practice, or an opportunity for improvement.

The nurse planner initiates the process by analyzing data needed to validate the need for the activity. This analysis becomes the basis for the **professional practice gap – difference between current state and desired state**. Professional practice gaps may occur in administration, clinical practice, education, and research.

Gap analysis process includes the following:

- Identified gap(s) – what is the need?
- Description of current state – what practices are currently being used to address the need?
- Description of desired/achievable state – what should be done to address the need, what would the ideal outcome be?