

Evidence Practice Gap Assessment Form

Use this short quiz to explore whether an identified evidence practice gap should be addressed.

Criteria

1. Strength of Evidence

Is there strong, high-quality evidence supporting the change (e.g. systematic reviews, clinical guidelines, randomised controlled trial studies)?

Assessing the quality of available evidence ensures that the proposed change is based on reliable, credible, and scientifically sound research.

1	2	3	4	5
Weak / low-quality			Strong / high-quality	

2. Relevance to Local Context

Is the evidence applicable to this service, population, and setting?

Evidence that is applicable to the population, service model and setting increases the likelihood of successful adoption.

1	2	3	4	5
Not relevant			Highly relevant	

3. Clinical Significance

Will addressing the gap meaningfully improve patient outcomes, safety, or care quality?

By focusing on projects that improve patient care, outcomes, and safety, we can use finite resources where they matter most.

1	2	3	4	5
Minimal impact			Significant impact	

4. Stakeholder Support

Do clinicians, managers, and patients support addressing the gap?

Engagement from clinicians, managers, and patients fosters ownership, reduces resistance, and increases the chances of sustained change.

1	2	3	4	5
Low support				High support

5. Feasibility

Can the project be completed within the capacity of the core team and available resources (e.g. staff capacity, time, funding)?

Considering staff, time, and resource availability helps determine whether the project can realistically be implemented in practice.

1	2	3	4	5
Not feasible				Feasible

6. Organisational Alignment

Does this align with strategic priorities, policies, and leadership support?

Projects that align with organisational goals, policies and leadership priorities are more likely to receive support and succeed.

1	2	3	4	5
Low alignment				High alignment

7. Sustainability

Can the change be maintained and embedded in practice over time?

Projects should be able to be maintained beyond initial implementation, ensuring lasting improvements rather than short term gains.

1	2	3	4	5
Unsustainable				Highly sustainable

8. Risk Profile

Does the current practice create safety risks because it does not align with the evidence?

Practice that does not align with evidence can lead to safety concerns. Inconsistent implementation of evidence-based care can worsen patient and service outcomes.

1	2	3	4	5
No safety risks				Potential safety risks

Reporting

Use the following aggregate scoring guide to determine need for the proposed project. Projects with lower scores across the criteria may be considered a lower priority for implementation. To inform the next step, examine the lower-scoring criteria to identify potential areas requiring consideration.

35-40 (High priority):	Strong case to address the gap – proceed to implementation planning
20–34 (Moderate priority):	Worth considering – may need additional resources, engagement, or staged approach
<20 (Low priority):	Limited feasibility or impact – reconsider or defer