

Building Nursing Infrastructure for Clinical Trials at an Academic Medical Center

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Background

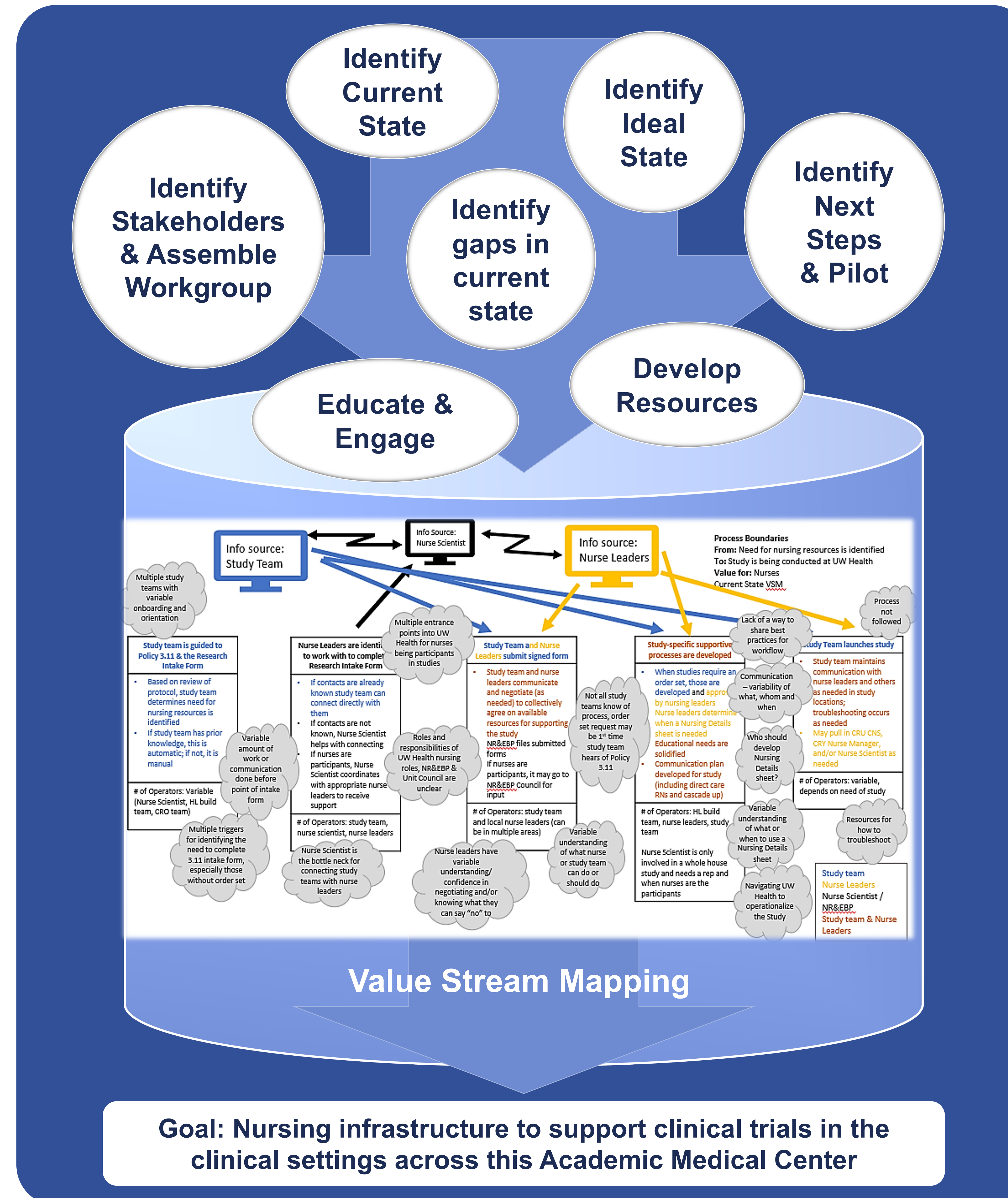
- Clinical research is embedded in this Midwestern academic medical center's (AMC) mission, vision, and strategic goals.
- Despite hundreds of active and ongoing clinical research studies, a defined, scalable structure to support the growth and enculturation of clinical research is lacking.
- This foundational infrastructure will facilitate patient access to innovative health interventions, while simultaneously creating a culture shift to integrate clinical research and patient care.
- The Nursing Department, a key stakeholder, identified the need for well-designed processes across inpatient and ambulatory settings to support and operationalize clinical trials in patient-care settings.

Objective

The purpose of this project is to develop a nursing infrastructure to support clinical trials, and their growth and enculturation at this AMC.

Improvement Process

- Key stakeholders from across the Department of Nursing, including clinical research nurses (CRNs), a Clinical Nursing Officer, Directors of Nursing, Manager of Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Scientist, and a Clinical Research Program Specialist engaged in the planning of the improvement work, which was guided by FOCUS-PDCA.
- The current state, including gaps and areas for improvement, and the design of an ideal future state were guided by value stream mapping.



Next Steps

- A defined process to assess the feasibility of conducting a study on specific nursing units, across multiple care areas, and / or when nurses are the participants of the study has been developed and is being piloted.
- Based on the pilot, improvements to the process will be integrated and will inform the final ideal state.
- Additional processes for study launch and implementation, including communication plans and resources will be piloted.

Anticipated Outcome

- Develop an infrastructure to support clinical research by engaging nurses at the bedside to be partners in carrying out clinical trials and creating a space for nurses to participate in research and its dissemination.

Implications for Clinical Research Nurse Practice

- By including CRNs, the impact of this new infrastructure will be maximized, while balancing the clinical care of a research participant with the fidelity of research protocols across this AMC.
- CRNs are integral to this improvement work; their expertise and intimate knowledge were harnessed in the development and implementation of a new infrastructure.

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