

Environmental & individual factors that affect clinical judgment

Environmental factors

- Setting, situation, and environment (i.e., safety considerations, equipment, surroundings)
- Client observation (i.e., age, symptoms of health alteration)
- Resources (i.e., staffing, supplies, beds, care partners)
- Health records (i.e., history, labs, diagnostic tests, I&O, medications, treatments)
- Time pressure (i.e., pager, STAT medication, change in client condition)
- Cultural considerations (i.e., language, literacy, religion, diet)
- Task complexity (i.e., level of difficulty, complicated versus simple action, number of people involved, sound delegation)
- Risk assessment (i.e., identifying and finding ways to remove or minimize harm to promote safety and health).

Individual factors

- Nursing factors (i.e., knowledge, skills, specialty)
- Nurse characteristics (i.e., attitudes, prior experience, level of experience)
- Cognitive load (i.e., demands on the nurse, stress, problem-solving, memory).