

# Nursing Student Research, QI, and EBP Practicum/Project/Study Policy

All requests for nursing students (BSN, MSN, DNP, PhD) who are seeking original research (OR), quality improvement (QI) and evidence based practice (EBP) practicum experiences and/or nursing students interested in conducting OR, QI or EBP at MGH must be submitted to the clinical placement coordinator from the student's school through the Centralized Clinical Placement System (CCP). A current contract between the school and MGH must be in place prior to the start of the practicum or project/research study. Of note:

- The student's faculty member **must oversee and grade** the student's practicum or project/research study.
- The Institute for Patient Care's Professional Development Manager or Project Manager for the Clinical Affiliation Program will send the request to the MGH nursing community to determine if there is an MGH nurse who is willing to serve as the student's preceptor for the practicum or project/study.
- **The request must be made at least 8 weeks prior to the anticipated start date.**
- Prior to the start date at MGH, each student must complete CITI certification at <http://www.citiprogram.org>
- **Student placements are not guaranteed.**

**For students wishing to do a practicum experience at MGH with a nurse**, the following process applies.

- The faculty member and student must review the skills for practicum list and submit a list of the skills sought during this experience in the application along with the course syllabus.
- The faculty member and student using the checklist, must discuss the goals of the practicum with the MGH preceptor.
- It is the faculty member's responsibility with input from the MGH preceptor to grade the student.

**For students wishing to conduct OR or do a QI/EBP project, the following applies:**

- MGH employees are strongly encouraged to discuss their project with their unit leadership as a first step.
- It is the expectation that students will work with their faculty member to establish their research question, approach to the problem and plan for evaluation or data analysis.
- In addition, a proposal with the following information must also be **included in the application**.
  - Title of the quality improvement project or original research study
  - The research question and/or specific aims of the study or performance improvement goal
  - Brief overview of the method/approach
  - Subject population of interest
  - Data analysis or performance improvement evaluation plan
  - DNP student QI projects must meet the Quality Improvement Measurement Activity and be exempt from IRB as described here: [www.mghpcs.org/MunnCenter/Documents/Research\\_Day/Clinical\\_QI\\_Checklist.doc](http://www.mghpcs.org/MunnCenter/Documents/Research_Day/Clinical_QI_Checklist.doc)
  - Signature of faculty member overseeing the DNP project or PhD dissertation
  - Signature of MGH preceptor
  - Signature of MGH unit leadership member approving that the project can be conducted on their unit
  - The faculty member, student and MGH preceptor should each retain a copy of this information
  - At the end of the experience and as applicable, it is the faculty member's responsibility with input from the MGH preceptor to grade the student.

**IRB:**

- For OR and as part of a **PhD program ONLY**, once the MGH preceptor agrees to be the onsite responsible investigator, the following applies.
  - All original research conducted at MGH must be approved by Partners IRB.
  - It is the faculty member's responsibility to oversee all IRB approval.
  - Some schools have a partnership agreement with Partners IRB. The faculty member and student must check with the school's IRB to determine if this is the case and the process to follow. For example, in some cases the student will need to go through the school's IRB first then once approved, submit a cede review application for approval to the Partners IRB. A full Partners IRB may still be required. In other cases, the opposite is true and Partners IRB is required first then the Partners IRB approval is submitted to the school,
  - In either case, the IRB application must be prepared by the faculty and student. The MGH preceptor who serves as the site responsible investigator will sign off and submit the application.
  - Revisions to the application and the completion of continuing reviews are the responsibility of the faculty member and student and signed off by the MGH site responsible investigator.