Questions to Develop Clinical Reasoning

Nursing Process	Tanner's CJM	NCSBN CJM	Questions/Clinical Prompts
Assessment	Noticing	Recognize Cues	• What clinical data do you notice that is significant or relevant to the nurse? • What clinical data is most important? • What clinical data is less important or distracting? • What findings did you expect? What clinical data was unexpected?
Analysis	Interpreting	Analyze Cues	• What cues are most concerning? • What does this clinical data mean? (physiologic significance) • What is the TREND of relevant clinical data? • What findings fit together? (patterns) • What additional clinical data is needed to identify the current problem?
		Prioritize Hypotheses	• What problems are possible based on collected cues? • What problem is most likely? • What problem is most important to manage first? • What additional clinical data is needed to identify priority problem? • What COMPLICATION is patient at greatest risk to develop?
Planning	Responding	Generate Solutions	• What is the current nursing priority to guide the plan of care? • What is the desired outcome? • What interventions are indicated to achieve desired outcome? • What orders will be anticipated by the nurse?
Implementation		Take Action	• What intervention(s) is needed immediately? • What intervention(s) can be safely delegated? (CNA/LPN) • What needs to be taught to the patient/family to promote health? • What medication (s) need to be administered to address the most important priority? • What information needs to be included in an SBAR report/interprofessional communication? (nurse-to-nurse or care provider)
Evaluation	Reflecting	Evaluate Outcomes	• Was the desired outcome achieved? • What findings would indicate interventions were effective? (or not effective) • Did the patient respond as expected? (or unexpected) • What is the current nursing priority? • What nursing intervention is needed next?