6S Pyramid Summary


**Systems** involve computerized decision support systems (CDSSs) which bring together all of the patient data from the electronic health record and link it to evidence-based guidelines for care to make a patient-specific treatment recommendation. This technology is not readily available at this time.

**Summaries** look at all of the evidence from the lower levels of the pyramid, placing emphasis on systematic reviews (in which sources have been critically appraised), and make evidence-based recommendations that can be implemented in nursing practice. Recommendations are accompanied by levels of evidence, and only those based on high-quality evidence should be considered.

**Synopses of Syntheses** provide an abstract or summary of an individual systematic review. Advantages of this level: we know that it is a high quality review if it has met all of the criteria to be selected for summary; it's short; there may be expert commentary highlighting the study’s clinical relevance. A disadvantage as you move higher on the pyramid is that the process takes time, so the information won’t be as current.

**Syntheses (Systematic Reviews)** - An extremely thorough and systematic search is done to find every study that would answer a particular question, and then based on selection criteria (e.g. sound methodology, validity, research design, etc.), only the best studies are kept. The review will be written summarizing the information/evidence found in these studies, and it will begin to draw conclusions.

**Synopses of Single Studies** provide an abstract or summary of an individual single study. Advantages of this level: we know that it is a high quality study if it has met all of the criteria to be selected for summary; it’s short; there may be expert commentary highlighting the study’s clinical relevance.

**Single Studies** are primary or original research studies, and they are found by searching CINAHL, Medline & PubMed. Be sure to use the Clinical Queries limit to find these studies. Single studies could be quantitative or qualitative studies.