

Lower-level Sources of Research Evidence:	Higher-level Sources of Research Evidence:
Evidence from a cohort study, observational, nonexperimental	Systematic review/meta-analysis of RCTs (highest level)
Systematic review or meta-synthesis of qualitative studies	Evidence from a large randomized controlled trial (RCT)
One qualitative study or descriptive study, or a quality improvement project	Evidence from a nonrandomized controlled trial, quasi-experimental study or a mixed-method intervention study
Non-research source; expert opinion (lowest level) (Note: Expert opinion is valid data, especially in the PMH nursing specialty, though this level of evidence should be made clear in the research report.)	