

Rounding for Readiness Questions

Here is a list of open-ended, theme-based questions designed to elicit process descriptions and deeper understanding from staff, moving beyond simple "yes/no" answers. These questions are ideal for walking rounds, audits, or interviews.

Open-Ended, Theme-Based Questions for Process Audits

Theme 1: Hand-Off & Communication

1. "Show me exactly how you confirm the 24-hour patient goals and any critical fall-risk updates during change of shift report."
2. "Describe the steps you take if the patient you are receiving is noted to be a high fall risk but their bed alarm is currently disabled."
3. "Walk me through the communication process when a patient's pain level is not adequately managed by the scheduled PRN order."
4. "If a physician calls in a verbal order, what is your mandatory read-back process and how is it documented?"

Theme 2: Patient Safety & Fall Prevention

5. "Starting from the moment you enter a high-risk patient's room, show and describe the sequence of steps you take to ensure the environment is safe before you leave."
6. "Describe a time you noticed a colleague performing a safety task (like ambulating a patient) incorrectly. What process did you use to provide immediate, corrective feedback?"
7. "How do you determine which mobility assistance device (e.g., walker, cane, wheelchair) is appropriate for a patient, and where do you document this assessment?"
8. "Walk me through your thought process when a patient who is usually steady suddenly appears unsteady. What is your immediate escalation plan?"

Theme 3: Documentation & Compliance

9. "Using the electronic health record (EHR), show me where and how often you are documenting the patient's reassessment for restraint use."
10. "Describe the process you follow when you identify that a required consent form is missing or incomplete for a procedure scheduled tomorrow."
11. "Walk me through the necessary checks you perform before administering a high-alert medication, and where is each check documented?"
12. "If the equipment you are using is due for calibration/maintenance, show me the process for tagging it out of service and escalating the repair request."

Theme 4: Emergency Management & System Readiness

13. "If a code blue were called in a patient room right now, what are the first three actions you would personally take, and who would you expect to arrive next?"
14. "Show me the fire extinguisher nearest to this location and describe the steps you would take before pulling the pin."
15. "Describe the protocol for reporting a malfunctioning piece of life-support equipment (e.g., a ventilator) on your shift."
16. "If you encounter a suspected infection outbreak (e.g., three patients on the unit with similar symptoms), what is the notification sequence you follow?"

