

The Application of Project Management Principles in Nursing

Haille Bernson: BS, Nursing

Abstract

This project explores the usefulness and application of project management principles in the nursing field. The increasing demand for baccalaureate prepared nurses in many hospitals calls for nurses with better-rounded business acumens, as well as administrative skills to hold managerial roles. This project discusses how project management principles are well-aligned with the basic nursing process used daily with direct patient care. In addition, it looks into the application of project management skills for clinical improvement initiatives, which often require leadership from nurses in order to end successfully. This project shows the benefits of project management principles in nursing by improving patient care, safety, and overall clinical experience.

The Fundamentals

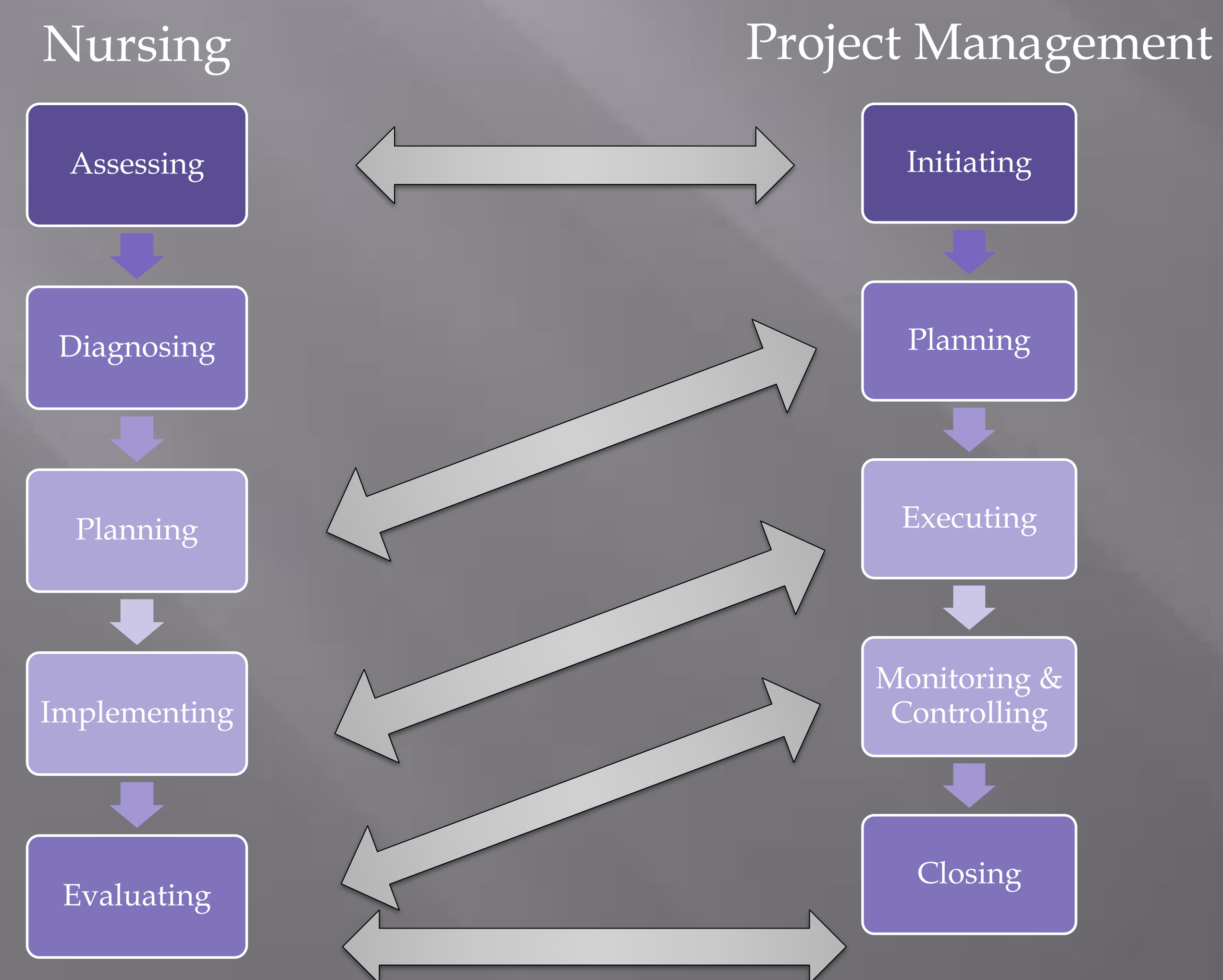
Nursing:

“Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations” (American Nurses Association, 2015).

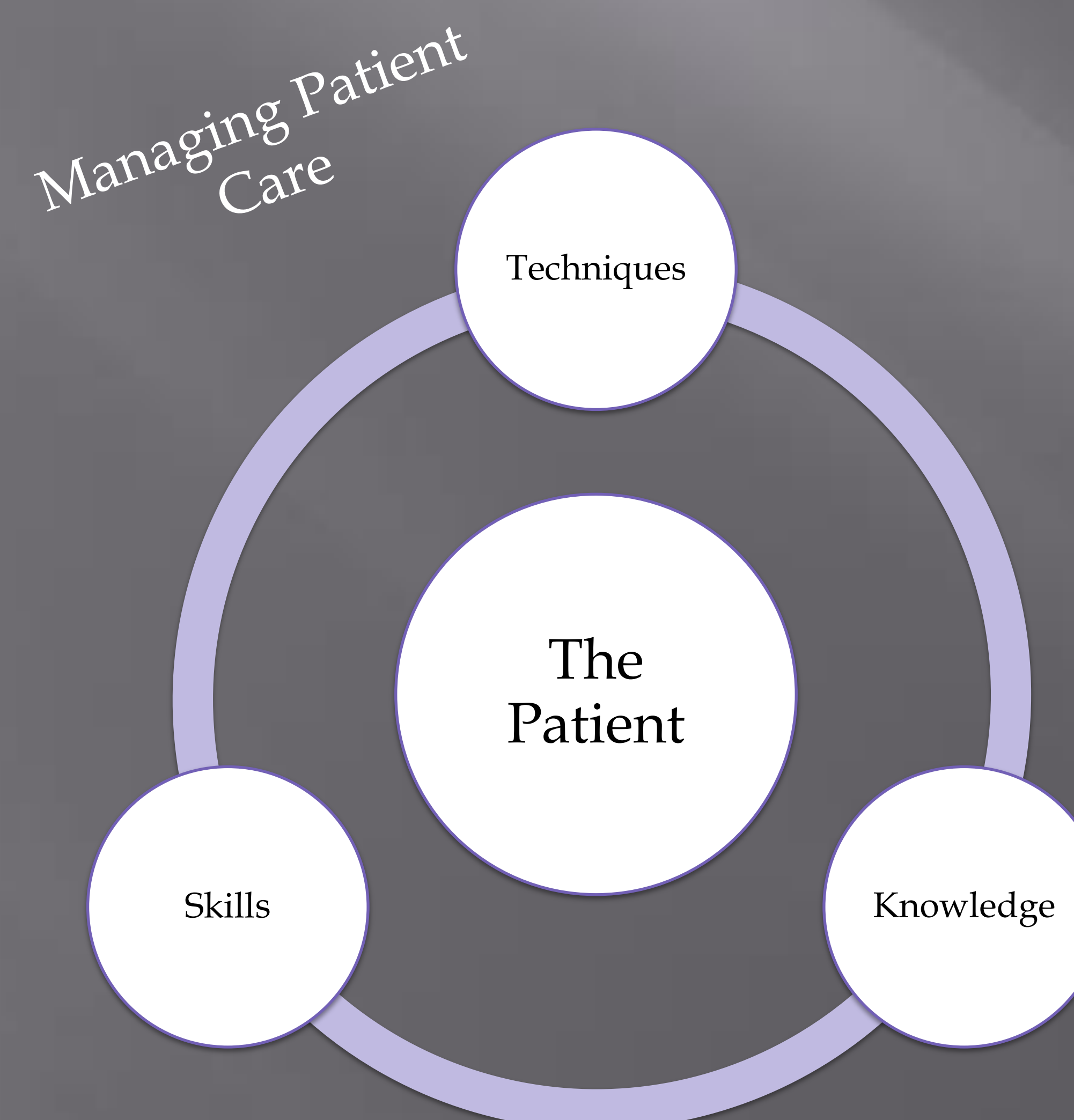
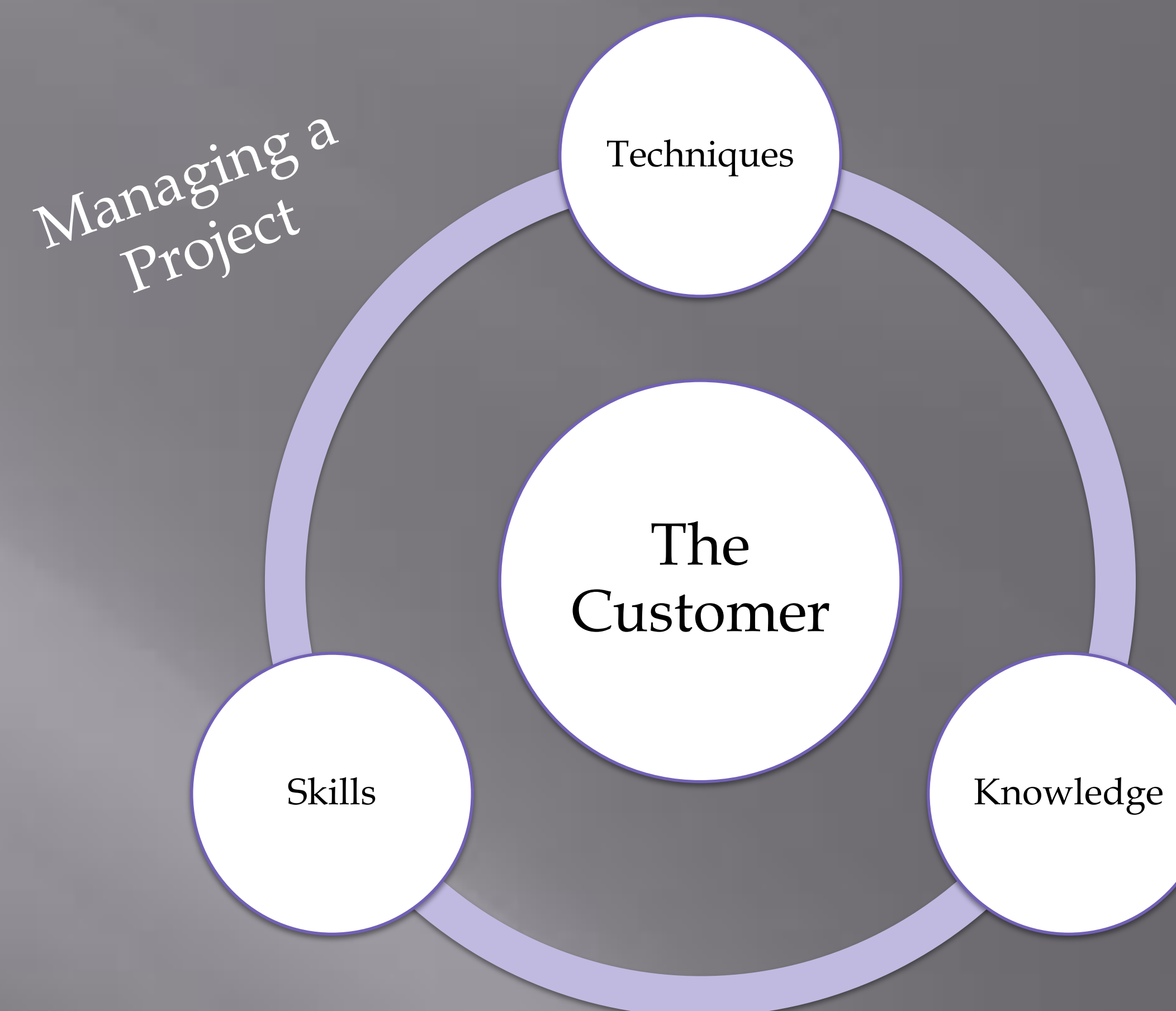
Project Management:

“Project management is the application of knowledge, skills and techniques to execute projects effectively and efficiently. It’s a strategic competency for organizations, enabling them to tie project results to business goals – and thus, better compete in their markets” (Project Management Institute, 2015).

The Basic Processes



The Similarities and Outlooks



Both fields use organized, systematic processes aimed to satisfy the *person* and to reach a specified and agreed-upon *goal* within set limits.

The Benefits of Applying Project Management to Nursing

Since managing a patient is very similar to managing a project, having project management education and skills is very useful in nursing. Some major benefits include:

- *Communication:* 90% of a project manager’s time, as well as a nurse’s, is spent communicating. Understanding appropriate communication techniques and tools can ensure continuity of patient care, especially in terms of multidisciplinary facilities.
- *Understanding responsibilities:* As a nurse, patient lives are your responsibility. Project management has heavy focuses on prioritizing, which is crucial in delivering effective and safe patient care.
- *Critical thinking:* PM increases the use of critical thinking. This is a skill that many nurses lack and need significant practice on. Critical thinking sharpens a nurse’s ability to problem solve and think “quickly on the feet”.
- *Lower costs:* The use of organized steps reduces the incidence of rework; thus, decreasing costs.
- *Quality improvement:* The goal-oriented approach in both PM and nursing improves quality of the product and of the care. The increasing need for quality and safety initiatives calls for nurse managers familiar with PM principles.
- *Reflection on end results:* The reflection on ‘lessons learned’ leads to ongoing clinical improvements to increase patient satisfaction and care, as well as increasing the use of evidence-based practices by nurses.
- *Understanding limitations:* PM uses cost effective development, which helps nurses to understand and utilize cost effective therapy.
- *Risk management:* In PM, it is crucial to learn how to identify and manage project risks. Managing risks with patients increases their quality of care, life, and clinical experience. Proper risk management also lowers healthcare costs to both facilities and individuals.
- *Evolving disciplines:* PM principles can aid nurses in adapting to the changing healthcare environment.

References

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