

- Nurses apply the concept of prioritization to all types of care decisions across many unique health care settings.
- Prioritization provides framework for the nurse to do order of care
- As nurse prioritizes hypotheses they will be able to build care plan
- if patient condition changes, nurse reprioritizes plan of care.

◦ Questions to consider

- Which hypotheses are most important & should be prioritized?
- What are the risks of ignoring other hypotheses?

◦ Critical cues

- chest pain
- high or low vitals
- critical lab results
- loss of consciousness
- respiratory distress

} should be reported

- some patients need to be deferred
- threats to patient safety/survival
- hypotheses vary & change
- nurse uses clinical judgment
- nurse collaborates

} what to consider when prioritizing

◦ Ranking hypotheses

- **urgency** → is it life threatening?
- **likelihood** → most/least likely to occur
- **risk** → possibility of further impact
- **effects on other hypotheses** → what impacts what?