Eviscore Foundation Course

Module 1 – ASK

Worksheet 1C: Identifying Clinical Question Types

Estimated Time: 10–15 minutes
Difficulty: ⭐ Beginner

Name: _____
Date: _____

Learning Objectives

After completing this worksheet, you should be able to:

- Recognize different types of clinical questions.
- Classify a question as Therapy, Diagnosis, Prognosis, Harm, or Prevention.
- Explain why identifying the question type is important before searching for evidence.

Quick Reference

Question Type	Purpose
Therapy	Which treatment works best?
Diagnosis	How accurately does a test identify disease?
Prognosis	What is likely to happen over time?
Harm (Etiology)	Does an exposure increase disease risk?
Prevention	Can disease or complications be prevented?

Activity 1 – Identify the Question Type

Read each scenario and tick the best answer.

Scenario 1

A patient with acute ischaemic stroke asks whether intravenous thrombolysis improves recovery compared with standard treatment.

- [x] Therapy
- [ ] Diagnosis
- [ ] Prognosis
- [ ] Harm
- [ ] Prevention

Scenario 2

A physician wants to know whether MRI is more accurate than CT for diagnosing spinal cord compression.

- [ ] Therapy
- [x] Diagnosis
- [ ] Prognosis
- [ ] Harm
- [ ] Prevention

Scenario 3

A patient with traumatic brain injury asks, “What is my chance of returning to work within one year?”

- [ ] Therapy
- [ ] Diagnosis
- [x] Prognosis
- [ ] Harm
- [ ] Prevention

Scenario 4

A smoker asks whether long-term smoking increases the risk of stroke.

- [ ] Therapy
- [ ] Diagnosis
- [ ] Prognosis
- [x] Harm
- [ ] Prevention

Scenario 5

A healthy adult asks whether influenza vaccination reduces the risk of influenza.

- [ ] Therapy
- [ ] Diagnosis
- [ ] Prognosis
- [ ] Harm
- [x] Prevention

Scenario 6

A patient with hypertension asks whether reducing dietary salt lowers blood pressure more than usual dietary advice.

- [x] Therapy
- [ ] Diagnosis
- [ ] Prognosis
- [ ] Harm
- [ ] Prevention

Scenario 7

An emergency physician wants to know whether a high-sensitivity troponin test accurately diagnoses acute myocardial infarction.

- [ ] Therapy
- [x] Diagnosis
- [ ] Prognosis
- [ ] Harm
- [ ] Prevention

Scenario 8

A woman with early breast cancer asks, “What is my chance of surviving for the next five years?”

- [ ] Therapy
- [ ] Diagnosis
- [x] Prognosis
- [ ] Harm
- [ ] Prevention

Scenario 9

A researcher wants to know whether obesity increases the risk of developing knee osteoarthritis.

- [ ] Therapy
- [ ] Diagnosis
- [ ] Prognosis
- [x] Harm
- [ ] Prevention

Scenario 10

A parent asks whether the measles vaccine prevents measles infection in children.

- [ ] Therapy
- [ ] Diagnosis
- [ ] Prognosis
- [ ] Harm
- [x] Prevention

Activity 2 – Explain Your Choice

Choose any two scenarios and explain why you selected that question type.

Scenario Number: _____

Reason

Scenario Number: _____

Reason

Activity 3 – Create Your Own Clinical Question

Write one clinical question for any two categories.

Therapy

Diagnosis / Prognosis / Harm / Prevention (choose one)

Category: _____

Reflection

Why is identifying the clinical question type important before searching for evidence?

Self-Assessment

- [ ] I can recognize Therapy questions.
- [ ] I can recognize Diagnosis questions.
- [ ] I can recognize Prognosis questions.
- [ ] I can recognize Harm questions.
- [ ] I can recognize Prevention questions.
- [ ] I understand that different question types require different evidence.

Evidence Pearl

Correctly identifying the clinical question type is the first step toward selecting the most appropriate study design and finding the best available evidence.

Faculty Notes (Instructor Version)

Answer Key

Scenario	Correct Answer
1	Therapy
2	Diagnosis
3	Prognosis
4	Harm (Etiology)
5	Prevention
6	Therapy
7	Diagnosis
8	Prognosis
9	Harm (Etiology)
10	Prevention

Teaching Tips

- Ask learners to identify the key words that indicate the question type (e.g., improves → Therapy, accurate → Diagnosis, chance → Prognosis, risk → Harm, prevents → Prevention).
- Encourage discussion where more than one interpretation seems possible and explain why one type is the best fit.

Question Type Memory Box

If the question asks…	Think…
“Does this treatment work?”	Therapy
“How accurate is this test?”	Diagnosis
“What will happen?”	Prognosis
“Does this exposure increase risk?”	Harm
“Can this disease be prevented?”	Prevention

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