

From idea to project

Practical tools for time-poor emergency nurses

01 QUESTION: make it manageable

Name the specific problem. Choose the smallest useful question that fits your time, data and support. Specify the setting and period you can realistically study.

02 HELP & APPROVALS: have the first conversation

Bring a rough question to research support or a mentor. Discuss feasibility. Ask your local ethics and governance office about the approval pathway, and find the data custodian. Allow time for a usable extract.

03 DATA: plan information you can use

Work backwards from the question. Agree on the fields, definitions and recording instructions. Choose tools and storage approved locally. Check anything drafted with AI and use your organisation's approved pathway.

04 ACTION: choose the next step

Write down the problem, question, available time and data, the help you need and the person you will speak to next. Arrange the first conversation.

THE URINE MCS EXAMPLE

One test. One ED. One year. Existing pathology data, then a random sample of **500 records** audited by **four clinicians**. Culture results needed symptom and treatment information to answer the question.

TOOLS FROM THE TALK

REDCap: structured study data and surveys. **Qualtrics:** questionnaires and feedback. **Excel:** organising and checking data. **SharePoint:** shared project files with agreed access.

Confirm the approval pathway and data access with your local team before accessing records or collecting project data.

Notes, tool links and templates:

<https://geoff-4ql.pages.dev/idea-to-project>