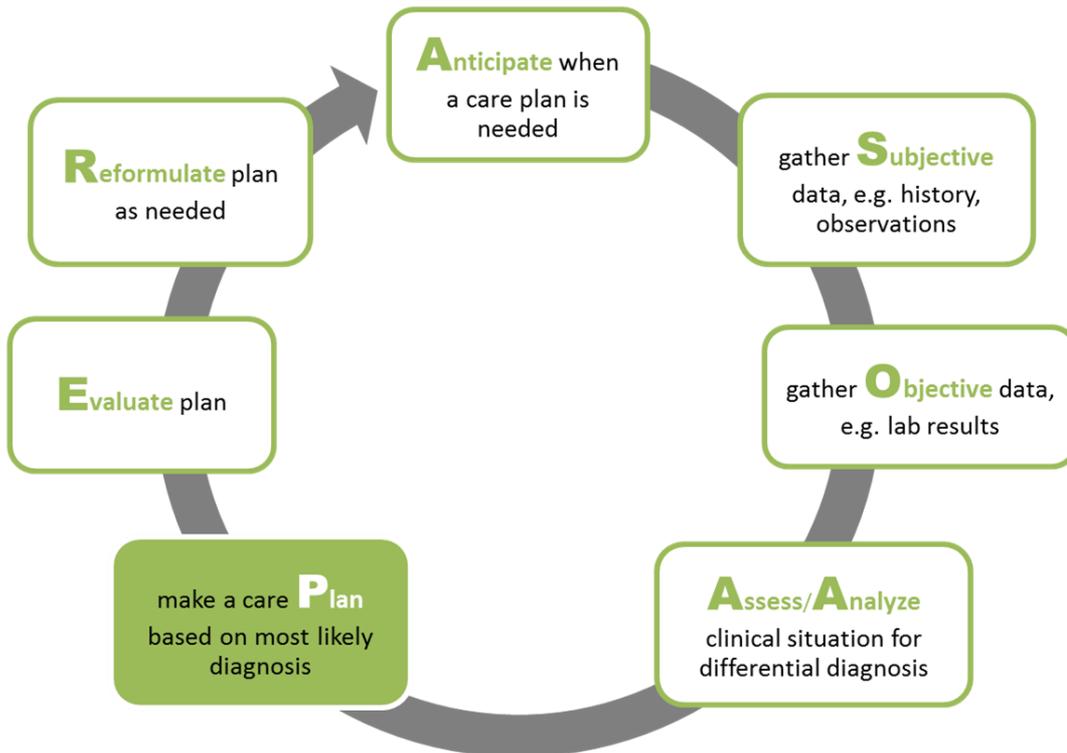


# Making Care Plans Using A-SOAP-ER



This expanded SOAP model provides a visual cue that care plans are built on a series of steps or building blocks. It guides the student to use a systematic approach and provides a tool for preceptors to mentor clinical thinking. Anticipation is added to guide students to think ahead and consider a range of options based on potential outcomes. It assists the student to be better prepared to act rather than react, especially in the unpredictable, fast-paced environment of intrapartum care. Evaluate and reformulate are added to remind the student to assess the effectiveness of the care plan and modify as needed.

# Using the A-SOAP-ER learning tool

- Assist the student to understand the discrete components for making clinical decisions and care plans and the importance of making a differential diagnosis before a likely diagnosis
- Assist the student to understand when to use this or another standardized tool like CHAT or SBAR
- Assist the student to develop anticipation skills. Ask what findings they expect prior to making an assessment and what actions may be needed with each potential finding
- When asking the student ‘What is your plan?’, remember a plan is an outcome that is built on a series of steps
- Mentor how to sequentially move through each step to come to a likely diagnosis and plan
- Have the student demonstrate each step in a particular clinical situation, verbally or in writing
- Encourage the student to consistently and systematically use a step-by-step approach until confident and competent
- Assist the student to develop reflective practice skills. Do case review and ask if the outcome could have been anticipated and if so, when in the care. Ask what could have been done differently and if the plan needed to be reformulated, when and how. What will the student do differently another time