**Preceptor Guide- Ladder of Inference: How Assumptions influence Thinking (cheat sheet)**

This guide is best utilized after watching the didactic Preceptor Development Part I video on YouTube (link below) and reading the associated articles in the module.

Assumptions influence thinking and subsequently, our actions. When people make assumptions and decisions with incomplete information, they "jump up the ladder of inference". Preceptors make many assessments about how the new nurse is progressing during orientation. The questions in this guide/cheat sheet are designed to help preceptors determine if their assessment is based on evidence, and if they have all of the necessary information to make a decision (the bottom rung of the ladder). This guide/cheat sheet can be used by preceptors to determine where perceptions originated.

**Ladder of Inference: How Assumptions Influence Thinking**

The following questions will guide you back down the ladder

* Was a course of action determined?
  + Why have I chosen this course of action?
  + What assumptions contributed to choosing this course of action?
  + Are there other actions I should consider?
  + Other viewpoints?
  + What belief(s) informed the course of action?
  + Are the belief(s) well-founded?
* Is the conclusion sound?
  + What data do I have to use and why?
  + Have I selected the data rigorously?
  + Are there other facts should I be using?