Excerpt from Planning Document for Pain Management Project

MAJOR TASK
Gather data

SUB-TASK
Survey former patients

SUB-TASK
Pharmacist review charts to evaluate pain management therapies

DECISION
Do we need to interview former patients?

SUB-TASK
Conduct focus groups with nurses and therapists

SUB-TASK
Conduct focus groups with physicians

DECISION
Do we need to gather more data?

SUB-TASK
Compare current pain management practices with published guidelines

MAJOR TASK
Benchmark

SUB-TASK
Compare current pain management protocols with published guidelines

SUB-TASK
Review literature to determine ”best practices” in pain management

DECISION
Do other hospitals need to be contacted and/or visited?

SUB-TASK
Review literature to determine “best practices” in pain management

SUB-TASK
Attend conference on pain management to identify innovative and effective practices

DECISION
Have we identified best practices in pain management?

APPROVAL
Obtain approval for 3 people to attend pain management conferences (1 on cancer pain, 1 on post-surgical pain, and 1 on chronic pain

Source: Patrice Spath, RHIT, Brown-Spath Associates, Forest Grove, OR.