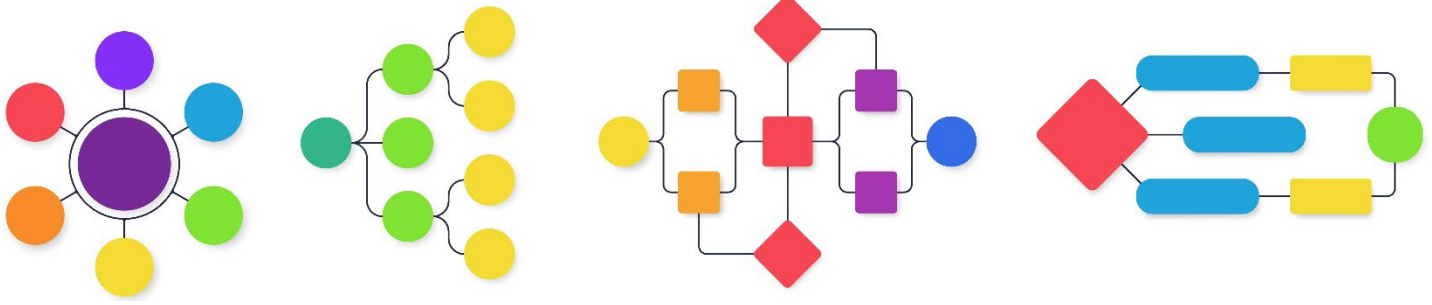


# Concept Mapping



## What is it and why do I care?

Concept maps are visual representations of information that show the relationships between concepts and ideas. They act as graphic organizers that provide a “big picture” of a complex topic and can clearly and succinctly convey a large amount of information. They can be hand-drawn or electronic, colorful or black and white, illustrated or plain – whatever you prefer.

By merely creating a concept map you will deepen your understanding of the topic as you start with higher-level concepts and then “chunk” that information into bite-sized pieces using connections you find meaningful. They can also help you see multiple relationships between a wide range of topics (symptoms  $\leftrightarrow$  diagnosis  $\leftrightarrow$  nursing indications).

## Elements of a Concept Map

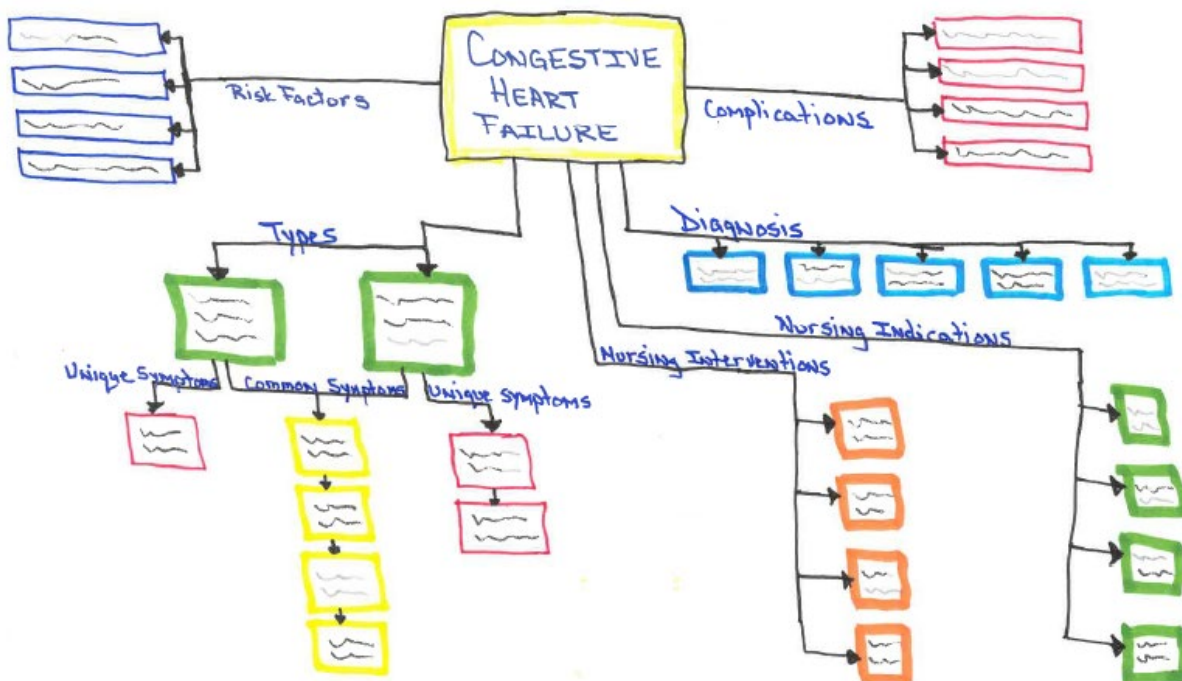
**Main Concept** – a primary subject, condition, situation, or question (e.g. congestive heart failure); don’t let this be too broad

**Related Concepts** – concepts that support or relate to the main concept (e.g. risk factors, complications, diagnosis, nursing indications, nursing interactions, symptoms, etc.)

**Hierarchical structure** – the most general concepts at the top (CHF) working down to details (symptoms of left-sided CHF)

**Parking lot** – before beginning your concept map brainstorm a list of identifying concepts that need to be included

**Cross-links** – relationships between concepts on the concept map (e.g. left-sided v. right-sided heart failure) or between multiple concept maps (e.g. CHF and diabetes)



## Video Resources

Overview: <https://youtu.be/8XGQGhli0I0>

Nursing School Examples: <https://youtu.be/ReXuXy4M7oY>