Overall, a state of the science paper is a synthesis of primary sources (primarily research studies) on a given topic. The purpose of the paper is to **identify, analyze, and synthesize** key findings surrounding a clinical challenge, dilemma, or controversy from the perspective of advanced nursing practice.

### Introduction
- Describe the problem and the specific clinical challenge, dilemma or controversy (keep the scope narrow)
- Justify the importance of the problem including relevant citations and discuss why there is a management challenge or controversy associated with the problem.
- State the purpose of your paper

### Background & Review of Literature
- Provide an overview of the specific clinical challenge, dilemma or controversy, including its nature/scope, relevant history, and the context within which the issue exists.
- Describe the epidemiologic, pathophysiologic, social and clinical context necessary for understanding the problem
- Describe the types of clinical interventions (or evidence) or approaches that may exist to address the problem, including the current standard of care
- Compare and contrast relevant studies including limitations or gaps in the evidence as related to the purpose of your paper

### Discussion
* (This is a major section of the paper.)
- Analyze, interpret, and synthesize key findings in the review of the literature (i.e., state of the science)
- Take a position and recommend a specific approach (such as a management strategy) for the challenge/controversy or,
- Outline the protocol to best meet the clinical practice challenge or controversy

### Conclusions (Including Recommendations)
- Describe key connections between your major points and the purpose of your paper, that is, how they help to answer the problem or current controversy in clinical practice
- Discuss recommendations relative to the original challenge, or controversy in clinical practice, for example directions for future research

### References
- List all references cited in paper
- The majority of references should be research and evidence-based articles published within the past 5 years

### Appendices
- Copy of protocol, algorithms or other documents developed as part of the paper

Approved: MEC 3/2017