



The Framework and Decision Worksheets

This appendix brings the parts of the Context Principle together in one place so you can use them when a decision reaches your desk. The chapters explain the reasoning behind each part. Here, I've kept the reference short and left room to work.

The worksheets are starting points. Copy them, adapt the prompts to your setting, or move them into a form your organization already uses. The depth should fit the decision: a contained test with fictional material might need a few lines, while a use that could affect care or private information will need supporting work attached. A completed worksheet helps a team explain its reasoning. It doesn't approve a use or replace the clinical, privacy, security, legal, or other review a particular use requires. Resources and updates for this book are at contextprinciple.com/healthcare.

The Framework at a Glance

PART OF THE FRAMEWORK	WHAT IT HELPS US DO	RETURN TO
Context Principle	Develop enough understanding for the intervention and its possible impact.	Chapters 1 and 4
Context Cycle	Observe, establish Context, Interpret, Decide, Act, and Reflect/Refine, then observe again. Use what happens to update the next decision.	Chapter 4
Four Lenses	Bring together Evidence about the proposal, Context about the setting, Expertise to interpret what we find, and Lived Experience from people affected.	Chapter 5
Decision Triangle	Examine the cost of being wrong, the difficulty of reversing harm, and how many people may be affected and how deeply. A serious concern in one area still deserves attention when the others appear manageable.	Chapter 6
Sufficient Understanding Test	Examine lens coverage and its weakest area, proportional depth, important uncertainties, meaningful input from affected people, and investigated failure conditions.	Chapters 1 and 6
Understanding Debt	Examine the continuing consequences of earlier interventions made without enough understanding, and address the work they have left unresolved.	Chapter 7

The Sufficient Understanding Test

These are the five questions introduced in Chapter 1 and developed in Chapter 6. I use them to organize a decision meeting, not to score one.

1. Have we examined the evidence, context, expertise, and lived experience, and identified where our understanding is weakest?
2. Is the depth of our evaluation proportionate to the possible consequences?
3. Have we named the uncertainties that matter to the decision?
4. Have the people who will live with the decision had a meaningful opportunity to inform it?
5. Can we describe a plausible failure and show how we have investigated it?

An incomplete answer should lead to a specific response: a missing perspective to hear, a more suitable evaluation, additional resources, or a narrower proposal. Sometimes the answer is to stop.

WORKSHEET

From Chapter 4

Context Cycle Record

DECISION _____

OWNER _____

DATE _____

SCOPE _____

1 Observe

What was seen, heard, or measured; when and where; whose experience is represented.

2 Context

The relevant history, people, constraints, responsibilities, and connections to other work.

3 Interpret

The likely explanation, a plausible alternative where relevant, and the assumptions still needing examination.

4 Decide

The choice, alternatives considered, remaining uncertainties, and why the next step fits the possible consequences.

5 Act

The scope, owner, preparation, measures, support, and conditions for pausing or changing course.

6 Reflect/Refine

The review date; expected versus observed results; what changed in your understanding; the next decision and its owner.

WORKSHEET

From Chapters 1 and 6

Sufficient Understanding Test

DECISION _____ DATE _____

1 Lens coverage

What did we learn from the evidence, the local context, relevant experts, and the people affected?
Where is our understanding weakest, and could that gap change the decision?

2 Proportional depth

What have we done to understand the cost of being wrong, the difficulty of reversing the harm, and the scope of human impact? Have we checked that the safeguards we're counting on will work?

3 Important uncertainties

Which questions need an answer before we proceed, and which can we investigate during a limited evaluation? Who is following each one?

4 Meaningful input

What did the people affected tell us, and what did their contribution change? Whose experience is still missing?

5 Investigated failure

What plausible failure have we examined? What would prevent or detect it, and what would happen if those measures fell short?

WORKSHEET

From Chapter 6

Decision Record

DECISION _____ OWNER _____

DATE _____ REVIEW DATE _____

1 Proposed next action

What is permitted, for whom, with which information, and within what boundaries.

2 Stakes

Cost of being wrong, difficulty of reversing harm, and scope of human impact; reasoning for each.

3 Readiness

What the five questions establish, the most important remaining gap, and how it will be handled.

4 Cost of delay

What waiting would affect and what further investigation is expected to resolve.

5 Decision and responsibility

Proceed, investigate, revise, or decline; the accountable owner and conditions.

6 Review and response

What will be monitored, when the decision returns for review, and what would require an earlier pause.

WORKSHEET

From Chapter 7

Understanding Debt Record

PROCESS _____

OWNER _____

DATE OPENED _____

REVIEW DATE _____

1 Earlier decision

The change introduced, its purpose, and the understanding it required.

2 Unresolved question

What was missed or left unclear; the evidence for that account and possible alternative explanations.

3 Continuing consequences

The extra work or other effects still occurring, including who experiences them.

4 Effect on the next proposal

What depends on the unresolved process and whether it changes the proposed scope or timing.

5 Repair

The specific change, responsible person, resources, and transition arrangements.

6 Follow-up

How we will judge whether the correction helped, when we will review it, and how concerns can prompt an earlier response.
