Interprofessional Education: Roles of Health Professionals

Welcome
Session Objectives

At the end of this session, the participants will be able to:

– Compare and contrast the roles and functions of health professionals involved in interprofessional collaborative health care.
– Identify benefits and challenges to interprofessional health care.
– Identify strategies to improve interprofessional collaboration.
Turning Point Introductory Questions

• Demographics

• Beliefs

• Previous experiences

• Knowledge
Age (years)

1. 20-29
2. 30-39
3. 40-49
4. 50+
Prior Education

1. Bachelors
2. Masters
3. Doctorate
Previous position in healthcare?

1. Yes
2. No
I have a strong knowledge base of interprofessional collaborative healthcare practice

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree
I know the roles that other health care professionals play on health care team

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree
Today’s health professional students are educated in teamwork and collaboration.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree
I have personally witnessed an example of effective teamwork/collaboration.

1. Yes
2. No
I have personally witnessed an example of lack of teamwork/collaboration.

1. Yes
2. No
There is an organization dedicated to interprofessional education in the US.

1. True
2. False
Answer

True, AIHC in the US just beginning but there is the UK Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education (CAIPE) that began in 1987. In 2002 they defined IP as
"Interprofessional Education occurs when two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care"
The Institute of Medicine reports of the early 2000s noted a need for interprofessional education and practice to improve patient outcomes

1. True
2. False
The Institute of Medicine’s report in 2001 recommended a realignment of the health care system to enhance quality, safety, patient-centeredness, efficiency, and equity. One of the recommendations was restructuring health professions education toward an interprofessional practice.

The Institute of Medicine report 2003 stated that "clinical education simply has not kept pace with or been responsive enough to shifting patient demographics and desires, changing health system expectations, evolving practice requirements and staffing arrangements, new information, a focus on improving quality, or new technologies .... Once in practice, health professionals are asked to work in interdisciplinary teams, often to support those with chronic conditions, yet they are not educated together or trained in team-based skills."
Research evidence has demonstrated overwhelmingly that interprofessional health care positively affects patient outcomes.

1. True
2. False
Answer

False, not overwhelmingly. Up until the most recent 2008 Cochrane Review on interprofessional education (IPE), there were no randomized clinical trials to indicate the successes. However, the 2008 review indicated that IPE produced positive outcomes in the following areas: emergency department culture and patient satisfaction; collaborative team behavior and reduction of clinical error rates for emergency department teams; management of care delivered to domestic violence victims; and mental health practitioner competencies related to the delivery of patient care. One of the reasons for the lack of evidence is the lack of clinical trials that has been conducted in this area. More is needed.
Interprofessional health care can improve patient safety

1. True
2. False
True, a variety of studies (not randomized clinical trials but well developed studies) have demonstrated decreased medication errors when health professionals communicate effectively.
The profession primarily responsible for patient education is the nurse

1. True
2. False
False. Patient education is essential in all professions; nurse not the primary person responsible. Repetition of patient education is not a negative behavior; patients may benefit from hearing the information from multiple professionals (if consistent information).
Effective health care teams involved in a patient’s care must meet weekly as a team

1. True
2. False
Answer

False. It is important for members of a health team to communicate with other members but the reality of schedules and other responsibilities do not always allow this. There are other strategies that can be used when regular meetings not feasible. Accurate documentation in charts, reading the notes of other professionals, calling or emailing, etc.