

TREND PERSPECTIVE

Interprofessional Education (IPE)

Promoting communication and collaboration in health care delivery

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Elsevier Education supports interprofessional education and the potential of nursing, in particular, to lead the charge in transforming health care delivery. Through collaboration and communication, all members of the health care team can work together to improve outcomes through safe, coordinated, patient-centered care.



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Elsevier Education's Perspective on: Interprofessional Education (IPE)

Health care is becoming more and more complex, and as this trend continues, communication and collaboration are becoming increasingly important (Sportsman, 2012).

Perspective

Elsevier Education supports the idea that efforts to advance Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice are important to ensure patient safety. Health care is becoming more and more complex, and as this trend continues, communication and collaboration are becoming increasingly important (Sportsman, 2012).

Further, both the World Health Organization (2010) and the Institute of Medicine (2003) are well documented in their encouragement and support of interprofessional collaborative practice. Nursing frameworks, like QSEN and BSN Essentials, include competencies that reflect teamwork, collaboration, and/or interprofessional collaboration. Nursing has been identified as having the potential to make the greatest impact on a transformation of health care delivery (AACN, 2008).

In short, Interprofessional Education (IPE) prepares students to work as members of a collaborative team interacting to maximize patient-centered, safe, coordinated care. Elsevier Education integrates content that supports building a foundation for interprofessional collaborative practice, so students acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes around IPE that allow them to be more effective health care practitioners and interprofessional team members. Additionally, Elsevier Clinical Solutions provides products and a framework that promotes interprofessional collaboration in practice, creating a continuum that spans education and clinical practice.

Background

When the topic of Interprofessional Education is referred to in the academic setting, an often-referenced document is *Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice*, published in May 2011 by an Expert Panel from the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC). Health Professions groups sponsoring the IPEC report include: American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN); American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM); American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP); American Dental Education Association (ADEA); Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC); and Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH). The report references the following operational definition from WHO (2010) for Interprofessional Education: When students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes (IPEC, 2011).

The IPEC report includes the following Core Competency domains, which contain a total of 38 competencies:

- (1) Values/Ethics for Interprofessional Practice
- (2) Roles/Responsibilities
- (3) Interprofessional Communication
- (4) Teams & Teamwork

While interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPECP) is highly recognized by major health organizations, implementation in the academic setting can be challenging. Key challenges outlined



in the IPEC report include: lack of resource support by institutional leadership, lack of institutional collaborators, practical issues (e.g., scheduling), faculty development, assessment issues, and lack of regulatory expectations (IPEC, 2011).

Through a cooperative grant with HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) in 2012, the University of Minnesota was named as the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education. It was established “to provide an infrastructure for leadership, expertise, and support to enhance the coordination and capacity building of IPECP among health professions across the U.S. particularly in medically underserved areas. Through innovative program coordination, scholarly activities, and analytic data collection, the coordinating center will raise the visibility of high-quality, coordinated, team-based care that is informed by best practice models for interprofessional education. [This National Center] will be a focal point in a growing national effort to foster IPECP among health professions (HRSA, 2012).”

Elsevier Products and Solutions that foster Interprofessional Education

- Fundamentals, Medical-Surgical, and other core Nursing content are infused with Teamwork & Collaboration (QSEN).
- Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing includes an option to quiz based on the QSEN competency: teamwork & collaboration.
- TEACH for Nurses calls out exemplars of QSEN competencies and BSN Essentials.
- Ignatavicius: *Medical-Surgical Nursing* has an interprofessional collaborative care approach.
- Simulation Learning System (SLS) includes scenarios with nursing and other health professional interactions.
- SimChart Educational EHR provides nursing students with opportunities to review physician orders and enter orders from the provider perspective.
- Giddens: *Concepts for Nursing Practice* includes Collaboration as a core concept (#42).
- Elsevier Clinical Solutions offers the CPM Framework to healthcare institutions. The Framework includes infrastructures, processes, and evidence-based content and tools that support the implementation and sustainability of interprofessional practice environments (products & services).

Conclusion

While major health organizations all recognize the need for Interprofessional Education and Practice, the implementation in an academic setting can be difficult to achieve. Elsevier recognizes the importance of this concept and the implications it can have across the spectrum of care on patient outcomes.

To that end, we're committed to supporting Interprofessional Education through a variety of solutions in both our Education and Clinical Solutions divisions, and we continue to evolve new resources and products to help care teams learn and perform better together.

Works Cited

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