


Chapter 2

Theoretical Foundations of Team–Based Healthcare

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ABSTRACT

A theory is a system of reasoning based on clear facts, such as principles or laws, that describes, explains, elucidates, prescribes, or organizes a particular phenomenon (Walker & Avant, 2005). Theories also clarify various aspects of a phenomenon and provide a framework for understanding them. Furthermore, theories create complex and comprehensive understandings of phenomena that cannot be easily explained, such as how a particular culture works, how an organization functions, or why individuals interact in a certain way. Over the past few years, the use of theory in the interprofessional field has evolved and matured (Reeves & Hearn, 2013). This chapter reviews the foundational and related theories to better understand team-based healthcare.

INTRODUCTION

“Health is everyone’s concern!”

Health care has changed enormously with more rapid pace in the last 20 years. With the complexity of modern health care, patients are rarely looked after by just

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one health professional. In the context of a complex health care system, health care professionals need transit from being soloist to members of teams who work together. Since the WHO framework in 2010, the importance of team-based health care is now globally recognized as an essential approach for more effective and patient-centered health care delivery system.

However, the term “team-based health care” use interchangeable of other terms, such as interprofessional collaboration and its concept involve patient-centered care. For example, this term is used Japanese “team iryou” as same. And “team iryou” consists four concepts such as “professional specialty-oriented”; “team composition-oriented”; “patient-centered oriented” and “collaboration oriented” by Hosoda’s sociological research (2021, p.95). The last two concepts are key components for team-based health care. At this point, those concepts are defined below:

Team-Based Health Care

Team-based care is defined as “the provision of health services to individuals, families, and/or communities by at least two health care providers who work collaboratively with patients and their caregivers – to the extent preferred by each patient – to accomplish shared goals within and across settings to achieve coordinated high-quality care” by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The incorporation of sharing responsibilities with accountability between team members in health care systems offers great benefit.

Interprofessional Collaboration

Interprofessional collaboration (IPC) is one of the key concepts for team-based health care. IPC is interprofessional work that is the process whereby members of two or more different professions and/or agencies work together to provide integrated health and/or social care for the benefit of service users (Pollard et al, 2005, p.10). Barr et al. (2005) also mentioned that IPC involves different health and social care professions who regularly come together to negotiate and agree how to solve complex care problems or provide services. In other words, it differs from interprofessional teamwork as colleagues do not share a team identity and work together in a less integrated and interdependent manner based on their practice (Reeves et al., 2010).

Patient-Centered Care

Patient-centered care (PCC) and team-based and/or Interprofessional collaborative care (IPC) remain important goals for all health care systems. Patient-centered care is a model for providing health care that focuses not only on the patient’s symptoms

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