

Chapter 13

The Future of Interprofessional Collaboration

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ABSTRACT

In this chapter the author's vision of the future of interprofessional collaborative care is presented. The facilitators and barriers to ensuring the success of interprofessional collaborative care are discussed. Additionally, the important impact of leadership commitment of both healthcare institutions and educational institutions to the future success of interprofessional collaboration is also addressed. Finally, the influence of artificial intelligence on interprofessional care teams is also considered.

INTRODUCTION

Predicting the future is a daunting task because of all the unknown factors that could affect the expected trajectory and change the course of a direction. In this chapter I focus the discussion on what I imagine the future of interprofessional collaborative practice may look like.

Although Interprofessional Collaboration (IPC) has been mentioned in the literature for the past 20 years not all healthcare students graduate with IPC competencies nor do all healthcare settings utilize a true interprofessional collaborative approach. In my vision of the future of IPC all healthcare practitioners, will have achieved interprofessional competencies as pre-licensure students prior to starting their careers in the workplace. By having this preparation prior to starting their careers this will ensure that all healthcare practitioners will be well versed in IPC and committed

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to achieving interprofessional collaborative care in their workplaces. Moreover, the major goals of interprofessional collaborative care will also be achieved. All team members will understand, respect and value each others' roles on the team. Additionally, all team members will be comfortable speaking out when they are not clear about a patient treatment plan or have a conflict with another team member. Healthy conflict resolution will become one of the norms for a well-functioning team.

Interprofessional Collaborative Care will be considered best practice for organizations committed to patient-centred care and demonstrate this commitment by listing interprofessional collaboration as a focus in their organization's mission and vision. To ensure this commitment to interprofessional collaborative care, healthcare organizations will provide supportive environments in their organizations to ensure sustainability of interprofessional collaborative care by providing orientation and onboarding programs to all new employees on the importance of IPC and how IPC aligns with best practice and the mission and vision of the organization. The onboarding may include didactic lectures as well as team simulations so that all new employees can understand how IPC functions in the workplace setting. Healthcare organizations will also provide resources and protected time on an ongoing basis to assist with team development and enable the teams to get to know each team member and grow as a team. Healthcare organizations will include participation in interprofessional collaboration as a key element when conducting performance reviews with all employees (Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, 2013). Achievement of these facilitators of interprofessional collaborative care will contribute to achieving an environment of patient-centred care and a focus on achieving excellent patient outcomes.

In my view of the future of IPC, educational institutions with prelicensure healthcare programs will prioritize interprofessional collaborative care competencies in their curricula. Educational institutions will provide sufficient resources to ensure all students are well-grounded in IPC. Additionally, schools that educate interprofessional healthcare students will provide different modalities of teaching and learning of IPC across the curriculum such as lectures, simulations and opportunities in clinical practicums for students to learn, understand and practice IPC in a safe setting, to ensure that students will be competent when they graduate and transition to the clinical setting.

INTERPROFESSIONAL CARE OUTCOMES

In the future, research findings will clearly show the impact of interprofessional collaboration. The positive outcomes of IPC will be demonstrated by a significant decrease in errors, and harm reduction that is attributable to IPC. Staff satisfaction

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