Background

Healthcare today relies on effective teamwork and communication to ensure patient safety.1,2 Graduates of healthcare programs are expected to work in an inter-professional team and communicate effectively upon entering the workforce.

Traditionally, healthcare students are educated in professional silos that have different foci of communication.3 Graduates of healthcare programs are expected to work in an inter-professional team and communicate effectively upon entering the workforce.

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of this pilot project is to determine if an online, case-based simulation module introducing the communication tool CUS, improves healthcare professional students’ communication efficacy and confidence and decreases fear related to communication.

Methods

Proposed a pilot pre/post single-group quasi-experimental design including (N = 20)

Phase 1 ➔ Educational Module Development & Virtual Simulated Case Development

Phase 2 ➔ Baseline Survey Administration & Synchronous Online Simulation Session

Phase 3 ➔ Student Post-Session Assessment & Post-Session Reflection

Pre-session Educational Content

Course Canvas Page

In addition to a fully developed Canvas site, we have also developed discipline specific case scenarios for dyads of health profession students to use in their virtual live simulation. Before the project was interrupted due to COVID-19, we were able to deliver this educational session to one dyad of dental and medical students. Preliminary Results revealed students reporting improvement in their self-confidence and comfort with inter-professional communication as well as in their knowledge about inter-professional communication.

We plan to complete the pilot in the upcoming weeks/months and publish the results. Results of this project will help emphasize the importance of incorporating inter-professional communication education into healthcare professional curricula.

Next Steps

Progress to Date

