Improving Interprofessional Communication During Team Conferences with Patient/Caregiver

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Background

- Interprofessional education (IPE) is traditionally focused on undergraduate and graduate student education to foster effective patient-centered communication between health professionals.
- Including the patient’s voice as a member of the IPE team and elevating the patient voice as a member of the team is of utmost importance and must be included in further IPE learning.
- By including the patient, and caregiver (when involved and with patient consent), health outcomes are improved.
- Studies have demonstrated a correlation between effective physician-patient communication and improved patient health outcomes.
- Using a tool, such as SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation), can assist in IPE communication, and may be effective at assisting students in understanding the importance of the patient voice in the IPE team and improve the patient journey through the health care system.

Purpose

- Evaluate the perception of IPE collaboration among professional health care students following an educational module on IPE communication and patient inclusion.
- We anticipate that using SBAR and including the patient’s voice as a member of the IPE team may be effective at assisting students in improving perception and value of IPE.

Methods

- We are developing an online learning module that can be delivered synchronously to students in three health care programs: Athletic Training, Respiratory Therapy, and Social Work. We will first educate students on the importance of learning about/from/with each other’s professions, in collaboration with other members of a multidisciplinary team.

Learning Module

- The online learning module will cover the following:
  1. An introduction of the three disciplines included.
  2. Lecture and on-line discussion, videos and demonstrations, and case studies.
  3. Students learning will center on SBAR and effective IPE communication, and best practices in IPE.
  4. Student perceptions toward interprofessional communication will be a focus while also elevating the patient voice.
  5. The module/s will be evaluated pre- and post using the Interprofessional Socialization and Valuing Scale (ISVS) and Interdisciplinary Education Perception Scale (IEPS).

SBAR Communication Video

- The learning module will center on a, educational IPE video, currently being produced through collaborations with the University of Toronto’s Centre for Interprofessional Education and the University of Michigan’s Office of Patient Experience.
- The video will expand this learning demonstrating the patient’s role as a member of the treatment team.

Results

- Although this project is still in development, we anticipate that student’s perception and knowledge of IPE will improve across all three disciplines following the educational module.
- We also anticipate that students will learn skills associated with best practices in IPE as well as associated protocols and skills associated with interprofessional collaboration.
- Students will understand and articulate the value and importance of the patient as a member of the treatment team especially regarding improving patient outcomes.

Future Applications and Next Steps

- The module will be tested in a pilot launch in which a small group of students in the three disciplines. Students will have the opportunity to provide their feedback on all aspects of the modules. Upon completion, a finalized educational module will be developed.
- Expansion of the module could include ice breaker activities for the students enrolled in each program, an IPE case discussion and further evaluation of IPE collaboration using the AITCS_II learning scale.
- We anticipate this module being used across many different health professional programs.