

Collaborating for Education and Practice: An Interprofessional Education Strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador

Objective

The goal of the Memorial University project is to expand and promote interprofessional education activities in education and practice settings. This will enhance the collaborative, patient-centred practice competencies of students and practitioners throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

Project Approach

1. Develop and implement interprofessional education learning blocks and modules for medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and social work undergraduate students.
2. Develop and deliver the Rural Mental Health Interprofessional Training Program, which focuses on the development of interprofessional, collaborative practice skills within primary health care teams and other professionals in targeted communities.
3. Develop and deliver the Interprofessional Collaboration Workshop aimed at improving the teamwork of postgraduate health professional students, nursing and allied health professionals.
4. Organize and deliver faculty development initiatives that foster positive attitude changes and increase understanding of the roles and responsibilities of other health care professionals.
5. Evaluate the curriculum framework and project activities.

Results

Using a blended learning approach, the project has introduced several required interprofessional modules and learning blocks into undergraduate student programs in nursing, pharmacy, medicine and social work at Memorial University. Through specially designed workshops, the project is building teamwork and collaborative practice competencies in rural and urban settings.

Conclusion

Evaluations of students, faculty and other health professionals continue to reveal positive attitudes towards interprofessional education and teamwork,

"I have just become more aware of the importance of team building and the team. I recognize the need to be more in tune with team members and more in tune with myself as to how I approach my job and the representation I can contribute."

– Allied Health Staff from Interprofessional Workshop 2006

and organizational and institutional support is gaining momentum. As a result of this project, Newfoundland and Labrador will benefit from sustained interprofessional activities in a wide variety of health care settings ranging from undergraduate/pre-service programs to practitioner workshops.

Resources

www.med.mun.ca/cchpe/pages/activities/iecpcp.htm

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