Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative
Consortium pancanadien pour l'interprofessionnalisme en santé

learning to work together, working to learn together
apprendre à collaborer, collaborer pour apprendre

IPE in ACTION

Partners for Interprofessional Cancer Education (PICE): Cultivating a Community of Practice

Objective

The purpose of PICE is to train and support health professionals as facilitators who can deliver Cancer Care Nova Scotia's Interprofessional Core Curriculum (ICC). With PICE, community-based practitioners participate in continuing education workshops designed to help them better meet the needs of cancer patients and families within Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The end result is improved collaborative patient-centred practice.

> *"I have attended two ICC sessions in the past, but this one was so much better in getting at the interprofessional aspects of our jobs. It was great to spend more time on the interprofessional concepts."*

Project Approach

1. Develop, deliver and evaluate a facilitator development program, which includes the competencies required to be an effective interprofessional educator in promoting collaborative patient-centred practice.
2. Modify the existing Cancer Care Nova Scotia Interprofessional Core Curriculum (ICC) modules to include collaborative patient-centred practice for cancer patients and their families.
3. Develop culturally relevant case studies to compliment the ICC modules for First Nations health professionals.
4. Develop shared knowledge, skills and attitudes among the participants of the ICC modules, including an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of other health professionals and increased awareness of how to access resources.
5. Improve the perception of patient care provided by health professionals who participate in the ICC modules.
6. Promote the development of a community of practice, and evaluate its sustainability.
7. Provide opportunities for undergraduate nursing students to learn the competencies needed for effective engagement in collaborative patient-centred practice.

Results

Numerous health professionals have been trained through the facilitator development program including students, First Nations health professionals, radiation therapists, nurses, social workers, pharmacists and physicians. The training program was based on a facilitator manual and competency document developed specifically for this project. By the end of 2007, close to 500 health professionals will have attended ICC modules, some of which have been revised to reflect collaborative patient-centered practice. In addition, case studies have been developed addressing First Nations issues and cultural sensitivity, and these will be used by First Nations facilitators to deliver the ICC modules. A web-based tool has been developed to support the community of practice. Faculty at St. Francis Xavier University is incorporating components from the ICC modules and IPE into the undergraduate nursing curriculum for fall 2007.

Conclusion

Through the delivery of the ICC training sessions by trained facilitators in Interprofessioanl education, health professionals are learning new ways to work collaboratively in delivering cancer care to patients and families from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Resources

- Community of Practice website for facilitators and steering committee members
- Facilitator Development Manual
- Interprofessional Facilitator Competencies: Competency Document

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