

Seamless Care: An Interprofessional Education Project for Innovative Team-Based Transition Care

Objective

Seamless Care is working to develop an innovative approach to interprofessional education and the enhancement of collaborative care. The project has interprofessional student teams helping patients develop the skills and knowledge necessary to manage their illness and work with their health care team within the health care system.

Project Approach

1. Students from Dental Hygiene, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy volunteer to work as part of an interprofessional student team.
2. All Students and Preceptors receive project training and skill development for working in interprofessional teams. Additional professional development sessions are offered throughout the term of the project to build on these skills.
3. Student teams work collaboratively to develop an interprofessional transition plan of care, set goals with the patient and monitor the achievement of those goals.
4. Student teams meet regularly in person, by teleconference or through the web and also meet regularly with the patient.
5. Preceptors guide and support the students and student teams.

Results

Even with the challenges associated with developing a unique interprofessional experience students and preceptors found this to be a valuable and important experience and encouraged further development of interprofessional education. Through transition of information this project will support and encourage interprofessional opportunities at the University and within the greater community.

Conclusion

Between January 2006 and April 2007, interprofessional student teams worked together collaboratively at Seamless Care clinical sites under the guidance of their clinical preceptors and with the support of their discipline preceptors. Research team and staff are currently analyzing the survey, focus group, and interview data gathered from students, preceptors, and patients.

“It’s in everybody’s best advantage to participate in it really, because I think if we do this at this point in our training we will be more likely to make sure that we are involved in interdisciplinary teams in the future – and that is hopefully the ultimate goal.”

–student participant

Resources

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