

This story about the second phase of the AIPHE project can be used in newsletters, online news and information channels and other communications channels.

Collaborating to implement IPE accreditation standards

The Accreditation of Interprofessional Health Education (AIPHE) initiative, during the second phase of its work, focused on developing a guide to assist in integrating interprofessional education (IPE) standards into the accreditation programs of health professions.

The following six health professions were involved in the initiative: **medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, social work and nursing**. The eight organizations that represented the professions were: The Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools, the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada, the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs, the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing and the Canadian Association of Social Work Education.

A Standards Development Working Group was established to develop an *Interprofessional Health Education Accreditation Standards Guide* based on the implementation principles developed in AIPHE's first phase of work. *The Guide* provides suggested language for IPE accreditation standards that can be adapted by health professions and examples of evidence for assessment to support accreditation surveyors.

Before the resources and tools were finalized, AIPHE partner organizations shared information and consulted with their key stakeholders, including clinical training site managers, regulatory authorities and government representatives since these groups are critical to enabling education programs to immerse learners and new graduates in collaborative, person-centred health and social care environments. There is evidence to show that interprofessional education enables effective collaborative practice, which strengthens the health system and improves health outcomes.ⁱ

While the second phase of the initiative is complete, the accrediting organizations involved with AIPHE will continue to incorporate their shared principles for IPE into their accreditation standards, pilot test the standards, revise and implement them. Please visit www.aiphe.ca for more information.

ⁱ World Health Organization (WHO), Framework for Action on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice, 2010