

Inter Professional Education: An evaluation of a joint learning experience for podiatry and pharmacy students.

Authors: Elizabeth Horncastle and Katie Greenwood. University of Huddersfield

Background:

" Interprofessional Education occurs when two or more professionals learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care" (CAIPE 2002)¹

Working with and understanding the roles of other healthcare professionals will impact on the quality of care of the patient. Interprofessional learning forms part of the Standards for the Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists². The Healthcare Professionals Council have also identified that allied health professionals will work as part of a team whose collective focus is the health and well-being of people and understanding this collaboration is essential.

At the University of Huddersfield second year pharmacy students attend a clinic run by podiatry students, under the supervision of podiatrists. Following excellent student feedback it was decided to expand this collaboration and produce a 2 hour workshop. Tutors from both disciplines met to design and develop case scenarios based on patients with high risk medical conditions that would impact on the work of both professions.

Aim: To expose pharmacy and podiatry students to inter professional learning at an early stage in their careers. Thus developing their knowledge, skills and attitudes to enhance patient centred care.

Description of Work: The 2 hour workshop was facilitated by pharmacist and podiatrist. Groups of six students (4 pharmacy and 2 podiatry) studied two case studies, one concerning a patient with complications of diabetes and the other with problems associated with rheumatoid arthritis. Details of the cases and suggested reading were given to the students two weeks before the event.

Proposed Evaluation: A feedback form including a combination of Likert scale, open and closed questions was provided to all students following the session. Data collected will be thematically evaluated and analysed to determine whether the workshop met the stated aims.

References

1. CAIPE 2002 Centre for the advancement of Interprofessional Education
<http://caipe.org.uk/resources/defining-ipe/> accessed 30/3/15.
2. GPhC (2011)
http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/GPhC_Future_Pharmacists.pdf
accessed 30/3/15