

Interprofessionalism

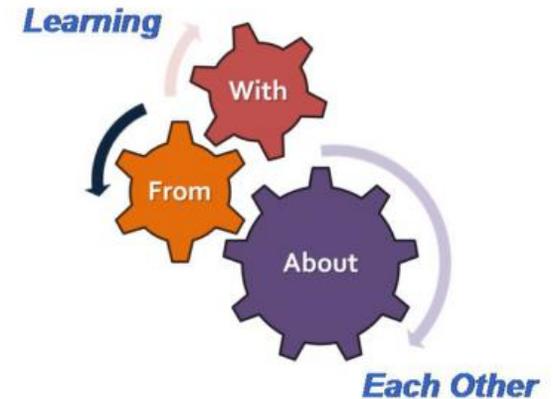
What is Interprofessionalism?

Interprofessionalism is two or more health professionals working together to provide better patient care. Research has shown that patients benefit from teams of professionals working together, effectively communicating and coordinating care.

How does Interprofessionalism relate to job shadowing?

Job shadowing typically takes place in a multi-disciplinary setting. Although every effort is made for students to receive their top job shadowing choice, this is not always possible. Students will still have the opportunity to learn not only about the career being shadowed, but other healthcare careers as well.

Job shadowing provides a unique opportunity to learn about multiple professions and what each of their roles and responsibilities are in patient care. Job shadowing promotes a deeper knowledge and understanding of the healthcare field as a whole, and the role of each professional as part of the healthcare team.



What are some of the ways a patient benefits from Interprofessionalism?

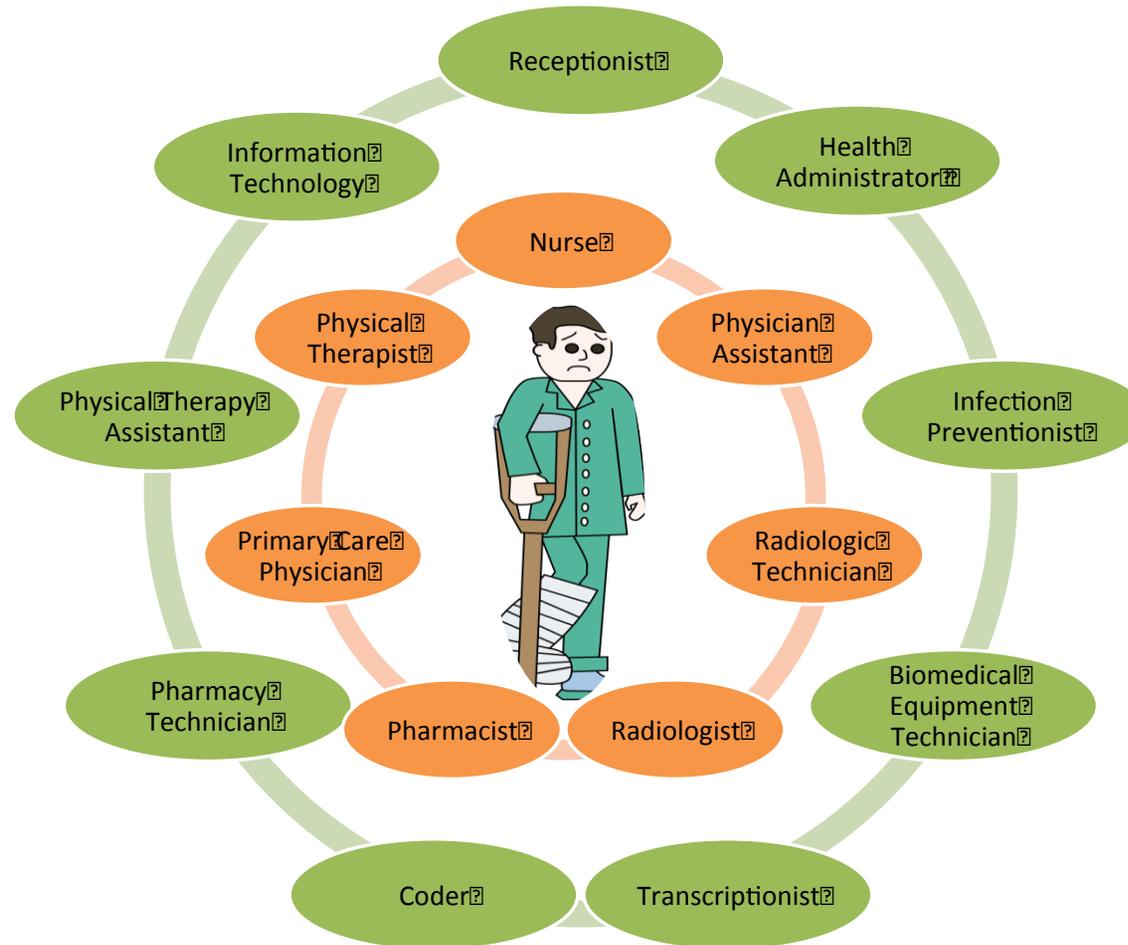
- Quality of care improves
- Lower costs
- Decrease in length of stay
- Less medical errors

What is Interprofessional Education (IPE)?

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Interprofessional Education (IPE) as an approach to teaching and learning that brings together students from two or more professions to learn about, from, and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.

Interprofessional Scenario: Broken Leg

Ben fell out of a tree and arrives at the emergency room (ER) with complaints of severe leg pain. As a patient visiting the ER, he will be cared for by a team of highly skilled healthcare professionals.



The middle circle (orange) represents clinical careers. Clinical careers are careers that provide direct patient care. Patients typically see the involvement of these professionals in their care.

The outer circle (green) represents non-clinical careers. Non-clinical careers have little to no patient contact (work primarily “behind the scenes”).

Nurse

- After checking in at the front desk, Ben is called back to the triage area. A nurse checks his vital signs and asks him questions about what happened and the pain he is experiencing. The triage nurse carefully documents the information Ben provides on his condition into an Electronic Health Record (EHR). The triage nurse reports these findings to the PA working in the ER.

Physician Assistant (PA)

- The PA reviews Ben's chart and also talks to the triage nurse about Ben's condition. The PA then enters Ben's room and asks him additional questions and conducts an exam. Based on his condition, an x-ray is ordered to determine if his leg is indeed broke. The PA submits the order to the x-ray technician, also known as the radiologic technician. When the results of the x-ray are determined, the PA goes over the results with Ben, discusses the care plan, and prescribes a medication, if necessary.

Radiologic Technician

- The radiologic technician receives the x-ray orders from the PA. The PA was very specific as to what bones and angles to take pictures of. Multiple x-rays of Ben's leg are taken, according to the orders. Ben asks if it is broke. He is advised that it is out of a radiologic technician's scope of practice to determine if bones are broken, and that the radiologist would review the x-rays.

Radiologist

- The radiologic technician sends the x-rays to the radiologist for review. After examining the x-rays, the radiologist determines Ben has a fractured tibia. The radiologist documents this in Ben's electronic health record and sends the written report to the physician assistant.

Pharmacist

- The pharmacist receives the prescription for Vicodin, a pain medication. There is a question on the dosing so the pharmacist calls the physician assistant to clarify. Ben stops by the pharmacy on his way home to pick up the medication. The pharmacist reviews the medication directions and goes over potential side effects with Ben before dispensing it.

Primary Care Physician

- Ben visits his primary care physician six weeks later for a follow-up exam. The physician determines it is healing very well, so he takes off his cast. Ben's leg muscles have weakened as a result of being unable to use them the past six weeks. The primary care physician writes a referral to physical therapy and documents notes on Ben's condition in his electronic health record.

Physical Therapist

- The physical therapist reviews Ben's electronic health record prior to Ben's visit. She provides an initial exam and gives him exercises to help regain strength in his leg. Ben meets with her twice a week over the next several weeks, until significant improvement has been made.

Receptionist

- The receptionist is the very first person Ben talks to upon entering the emergency room. The receptionist greets Ben and gathers necessary information (name, address, phone number date of birth, insurance information, reason for visit, etc.). The receptionist shares the reason for the visit with the triage nurse. The other information is documented for billing purposes.

Healthcare Administrator

- The healthcare administrator is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of all departments within the hospital and making sure the hospital is running effectively and providing quality patient care. Job duties include: creating budgets, developing staff schedules, hiring and training staff, developing goals, negotiating with vendors and suppliers, conducting community outreach, etc. The facility would not be able to function efficiently without the administrator.

Infection Preventionist

- Infection preventionists are responsible for preventing, investigating, monitoring, and reporting infections within the hospital. They also develop policies and procedures to prevent the spread of infection within the hospital and communicate these to staff. Healthcare workers must abide by these policies and procedures to prevent the spread of infection to themselves and patients.

Biomedical Equipment Technician

- The biomedical equipment technician is responsible for maintaining and configuring medical equipment. If there were any issues with the x-ray machine, the radiologic technician would have called in the biomedical equipment technician to fix the problem.

Transcriptionist

- Medical transcriptionists listen to the recorded dictation of doctors and other healthcare providers and transcribe it into reports, letters, and other documents. The transcriptionist must communicate with the providers if there is a question regarding what to include in a patient's medical record.

Medical Coder

- Medical coders review medical documents from physicians and other medical prescribers and translate them into numeric codes for billing and tracking purposes. The coder has to communicate with the prescribers if there are any questions as to what should be billed.

Pharmacy Technician

- Pharmacy techs work under the direction of a pharmacist. The pharmacy tech types the prescription information into the computer, fills the prescription and rings it up at the cash register. In addition to communicating with the pharmacist, pharmacy techs communicate with prescribers when there is a question on a prescription, or when a patient requests a refill. They also frequently communicate with insurance companies to solve billing issues.

Physical Therapy Assistant

- Physical therapy assistants provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The physical therapy assistant teaches Ben the exercises developed by the physical therapist.

Information Systems Support Specialist

- The IS support specialist is responsible for the computer operations within the hospital. The IS support specialist is responsible for identifying, diagnosing, and solving all computer issues in a timely manner. The IS support specialist communicates with all healthcare workers who may be in need of computer assistance.