

Interprofessional collaboration workshops: How residents learn about CanMEDS Collaborator Role in practising teams

Author(s):	O. Heath, A. Kearney, V. Curran
Institution(s):	Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's NFLD
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Interprofessional collaboration is a key competency area identified in the CanMEDS Role of Collaborator, which highlights the importance of knowledge and skills to participate effectively in interprofessional health care teams.¹

Although uni-professional training in the competencies associated with the Collaborator Role has some merit, it makes intuitive sense that learning about the complexities of inter-professional practice would be most effective in the context of a team setting. We have developed a training model designed to enhance collaborator competencies that involves identifying a "Team in Practice" in the teaching hospital, including medical residents, nurses and allied health staff, and bringing the team together for a full-day session focused on interprofessional collaboration. The session is co-facilitated by a faculty lead in inter-professional education and a staff person from the team. We deliver a combination of didactic presentation interspersed with interactive exercises designed to educate participants about successful interprofessional practice, the barriers to and enablers of effective teamwork, and the impact of ineffective collaboration on team functioning and morale.²

In the context of interactive interprofessional group exercises, the team is asked to identify the barriers they perceive to effective teamwork in their setting and then to brainstorm about potential solutions to those barriers. The team may identify a working group to partner with management to explore the feasibility of the proposed solution. The workshop facilitators document the identified barriers as well as potential solutions in a letter sent to the program management team and residency director for the service.

Twelve workshops have been offered to a total of 46 residents and 175 hospital staff members over a 2-year period. Evaluation results reveal very high satisfaction with the workshop as well as an intention to change practice: 83% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that participation in the workshop will influence their practice.

Reference(s):

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