Interprofessional Healthcare as a Catalyst for Better Education

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Abstract:

Interprofessional healthcare was introduced as a concept to enhance quality of patient care. Its application involves a team of different healthcare professionals working together to deliver excellence in patient care. This is presupposed by an understanding of one another’s professions and its relation to best practices in patient care. Through the early adoption of this concept, enhanced interprofessional communication and patient education techniques have been developed and have been proven to show an enhanced quality of patient care. Concurrently, there has been an explosion of new health professional schools in university settings that have the potential to better promote interprofessional education through innovative and creative ideas.

Rightly so, interprofessional healthcare perspectives are serving as a catalyst for health professional education. The benefits to interprofessional education are unarguable. Professions and education administrators must evaluate its current accreditation standards to ensure that they best prepare health professional students to meet societal demands. Thus far, several health professional accreditation associations have added or revised educational standards to include the need for interprofessional education.

This paper will provide a review of the recent changes in accreditation standards across health professions as it relates to the inclusion of interprofessional education. Further, it will provide future recommendations for how educational institutions can best meet these standards to ensure quality education and patient care.

Learning Objectives:

- to show the impact that healthcare and society have on education
- to provide a review of educational accreditation standards across professions, specifically those related to interprofessional education
- to provide recommendations to assist stand alone and university educational settings to meet these standards
- to provide an overview of the barriers and challenges related to interprofessional education in various settings