

Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient-Centred Practice: A Health Canada Initiative



"In view of changing trends, ... changes must be made in the way health care providers are educated."

Commissioner Roy Romanow, 2002
Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada

In 2003, Canada's First Ministers agreed that

"... collaborative strategies are to be undertaken to strengthen the evidence base for national planning, promote inter-disciplinary provider education, improve recruitment and retention, and ensure the supply of needed health providers."¹

Interprofessional Education

... has been described as learning together to promote collaborative care. It involves collaboration among several professions in the learning process, either in the education or health care sectors in order to:

- socialize health care providers in working together, in shared problem solving and decision making;
- develop mutual understanding and respect for the contributions of various health providers; and
- instill the requisite competencies for collaborative practice.

Collaborative Patient-Centred Practice

... is designed to promote the active co-operation of several health care disciplines and professions in providing care. It enhances patient, family and community-centred goals and values, provides mechanisms for continuous communication and fosters respect for the contribution of all providers. There is growing consensus that interprofessional collaborative patient-centred practice will contribute to:

- improved patient care;
- access to the appropriate provider at the appropriate time;
- improved recruitment and retention of health care providers;
- improved satisfaction among patients and health care providers; and
- decreased waiting times.

The Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient-Centred Practice (IECPCP) Initiative

The IECPCP Initiative is part of Health Canada's Pan-Canadian Health Human Resource Strategy. The objectives of the Initiative are to:

- promote and demonstrate the benefits of IECPCP;
- increase the number of educators prepared to teach from an interprofessional collaborative patient-centred perspective;
- increase the number of health professionals trained for patient-centred collaborative practice before and after entry-to-practice;

- stimulate networking and sharing of best educational approaches for collaborative patient-centred practice; and
- facilitate interprofessional collaborative care in both the education and practice settings.

Phase one of the IECPCP Initiative, launched in 2003-04, laid important ground work for the coming years, including the creation of a National Expert Committee (NEC) with members from the fields of medicine, nursing, allied health professions, government and other stakeholders including patient representatives. The NEC provides independent expert advice on the development and implementation of the Initiative, and is a key component to the future of IECPCP.

A Vision for the Future

The ultimate goal of the IECPCP Initiative is to facilitate and support the implementation of a strategy on the various facets of interprofessional education for collaborative patient-centred practice across all health sectors in Canada. As the multi-year Initiative continues to evolve, up-to-date information will be made available at:

www.health-human-resources.ca

For More Information

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¹ The 2003 First Ministers' Accord on Health Care Renewal:
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/hca2003/accord.html>