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Implementing an Interprofessional Chronic Complex Disease Rotation Innovation
Utilizing Project ECHO®

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Relevant IPEC Competency Domains: Values/Ethics for IP Practice, Roles/Responsibilities, Interprofessional Communication, Teamwork

INTRODUCTION/CONTEXT

Teaching learners to work effectively in interprofessional clinical teams is a provision of quality care.
Applying best practice interprofessional team learning to patients with chronic complex disease supports the mission and addresses educational goals for patient care and for learners at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC).

BACKGROUND

We developed and implemented a four week interprofessional chronic complex disease rotation including fourth year medical and pharmacy students and second year nurse practitioner students starting in 2013-2014.
The rotation integrated four Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)® weekly chronic disease clinics, http://echo.unm.edu/, and four comparable interprofessional, university-based ambulatory clinics.

METHODS

Learner teams participated in interprofessional:
• Project ECHO® telehealth chronic disease clinics
• UNM-based ambulatory chronic disease clinics complimentary to Project ECHO® telehealth clinics
• Interactive modules on social, behavioral, cultural, and contextual learning in patient care
• Small group structured team work sessions
• Formative and summative team patient presentations
• Debriefing after each session: clinics, group work patient presentations, and modules
• Individual reflections on interprofessional roles, team care, and chronic disease

Learner teams were assessed by:
• Portfolios developed from patient presentations and reflections reviewed by the interprofessional faculty
• A common rubric with discipline-specific faculty feedback for each learner

CONCLUSIONS

We successfully:
• Developed an interprofessional chronic disease curriculum suitable for each profession that covered the four Interprofessional Education Collaborative core-competency domains
• Utilized Project ECHO® specialist clinics and faculty from each profession to amplify chronic disease learning
• Linked the curriculum to experiential learning with complimentary interprofessional teams in chronic disease clinical settings
• Integrated modules to address social factors in chronic complex disease

MESSAGE

• Chronic complex disease care relies on interprofessional healthcare teams.
• The rotation model incorporated faculty-facilitated settings emphasizing interprofessional healthcare teams caring for patients with chronic complex disease.
• Faculty developed clear performance expectations with multiple iterative methods for learning and adaptive critical thinking facilitated through interaction with faculty champions.

COMMMENTS FROM STUDENTS

• “The reflections were an excellent exercise that allowed me to really think about what I had learned.”
• “I left this rotation with a better understanding of the interprofessional team…We were given a tremendous amount of feedback throughout the rotation which was very helpful.”