

“Integrating Interprofessional Education into a Practicum centered on elderly populations to address healthcare needs.”



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Abstract

Background & Objectives

Puerto Rico has one of the oldest fastest-growing elderly populations in the United States and territories. The current lack of appropriate healthcare services to the elderly demands the transformation of curriculum and teaching practices using the Inter-Professional Education (IPE). The objective of this educational project is to develop a framework for action among the six schools of the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus to engage in teamwork and collaboration while working with elders with chronic diseases in a practicum.

Methods

Three interdisciplinary teams composed of 6 students (one from each school), guided by 2-3 faculty preceptors during the 2016 summer session. An orientation seminar on IPE will be offered prior to the field experience. The subjects will be selected after screened at home by Nursing and Gerontology students. One subject will be assigned to each team. The practicum will be conducted at independent living facility. The practicum consists of: 1) A minimum of 3 visits by each team for health data collection, perform assessments, and conduct case discussions about the elder; 2) Design collaborative work plan to address the health needs; 3) Presentation of the work plan to each participant, primary caregiver and/or family, and administrator of the living facility; and 4) one follow-up visit 3 months after initial intervention.

Results

Individual and team self-directed assessments will be performed. Student teams will discuss how good their performance was in relation to other teams. Facilitated group discussions will provide them with a better understanding on how to collaborate effectively and develop appraisal of lessons learned.

Conclusion

A team-based approach using IPE and collaboration is critical for the achievement of more efficient, affordable educational and healthcare services tailored-made for the complex health needs of elders. Cultural entrenchment in traditional education among our health sciences schools is still a challenge for collaboration.

Background

Puerto Rico has one of the oldest fastest-growing elderly populations in the United States and territories. The current lack of appropriate healthcare services to the elderly demands the transformation of curriculum and teaching practices using the Inter-Professional Education (IPE).

Because of demographics, societal, technology and informatics shifts that have occurred in last decades, complexity of health chronic disorders, aging, globalization, economic crisis, health insurances, and social determinants of health; are definitely influencing how health professional are educated and trained.

Objectives

The main objective of this educational project is

To develop a framework for action among the six schools of the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus to engage in teamwork and collaboration while working with elders with chronic diseases in a practicum.

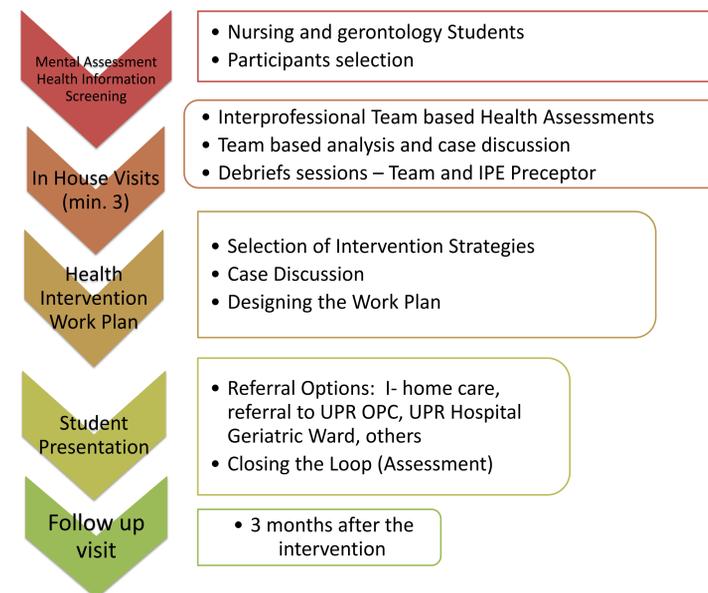
Innovations

- Practicum experience centered on the elders
- Interprofessional Collaboration among six schools (Medicine, Dental Medicine, Public Health, Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Professions)
- Team building development among graduates students
- Communication, Diversity, Cultural Humility, Ethics, Professionalism competencies
- Trans disciplinary interaction between students and participants
- Alliances and Collaborations between Academia and Practice Sites
- Students understand the value of how member’s role fit together as a health team to accomplish the desired goal centered on patient preferences.
- Students engagement in with diverse populations and communities.
- Paradigm shift: from medical alliances to health alliances
- Interprofessional Seminar or orientation to graduate students
- Students become trainers and educate themselves (Role Exchange)

Methods

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- The subjects will be selected after screened at home by Nursing and Gerontology students. One subject will be assigned to each team.
- The practicum will be conducted at independent living facility.
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Process Flowchart



Screening Tools

- Geropsychologic Initial Evaluation
- Folstein Scale (Mini Mental Status)
- Geriatric Depression Scale (Yesavage)
- Daily Living Activity Scale (Katz)
- Instrumental Daily Living Scale
- Health History
- Physical Examination

Results

- Individual and team self-directed assessments will be performed.
- Student teams will discuss how good their performance was in relation to other teams.
- Facilitated group discussions will provide them with a better understanding on how to collaborate effectively and develop appraisal of lessons learned.

Conclusions

- A team-based approach using IPE and collaboration is critical for the achievement of more efficient, affordable educational and healthcare services tailored-made for the complex health needs of elders.
- Cultural entrenchment in traditional education among our health sciences schools is still a challenge for collaboration.
- IPE is a high-touch learning environment for training health professionals.
- IPE helps students appreciate other professionals and avoid developing negative stereotypes.
- IPE experiences must be real and memorable and should enhance and expose students to elder patients, caretakers, and community.
- Students learn more by doing than by just lecturing in traditional face to face classroom courses.
- IPE courses should be required to send a clear message to students of its importance in health sciences and pro.

Acknowledgements

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