

Interprofessional Education for Clinical Laboratory Science and Physician Assistant Students Using Point of Care Testing

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Interprofessional Education (IPE) was developed to improve patient care, reduce medical errors and increase the recognition of health-care professions across the health-care spectrum. An IPE course was developed for Physician Assistant (PA) and Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) students (n=55 and 12, respectively) at Marquette University focusing on four competency domains: (1) Values/Ethics for Interprofessional Practice, (2) Roles and Responsibilities, (3) Interprofessional Communication, and (4) Teams and Teamwork. The IPE module allowed the professional students to work in real time, face-to-face and not by traditional IPE on-line discussion. Introductions and discussion of their respective professions (domains 2,3) was performed by the students in the initial meeting. Following this, time was spent in a laboratory setting as CLS students demonstrated Point of Care Testing (POCT) instruments to the PA students. All students performed testing and analysis correlating with the assigned case studies (domains 3,4). Students then discussed the cases with an emphasis for PA students to describe patient presentation and CLS students explaining significance of testing and results (domains 1,2,3,4). A student satisfaction survey was given pre and post IPE. The results (agreed or strongly agreed) showed promising scores in four main areas: promote interdisciplinary communication (77%); understanding their role in IPE (80%); case studies selected were relevant to all students (67%); IPE module was well organized (43%). The practice of IPE will benefit the students as they become a valuable part of the health-care team.