



An Interprofessional Education Summit: Differences in Perceptions Between Medicine and Pharmacy Students

Edward F. Foote, PharmD; John Szarek, PhD; Karen E. Arscott, D.O.; and Zachary Vaskalis, MS
Nesbitt College of Pharmacy and Nursing, Wilkes University and The Commonwealth Medical College and the
Northeastern/central Pennsylvania Interprofessional Education Coalition

INTRODUCTION

- The Northeastern/central Pennsylvania Interprofessional Education Coalition (NECPA IPEC), organized in 2008, provides vision and leadership to foster and support interprofessional education in health care.
- The NECPA IPEC is comprised of a group of health care educators from 11 different institutions of higher education in the Northeast and North central PA region. In addition, we are partnered with the NEPA Area Health Education Center (AHEC).
- A centerpiece of the activities of the NECPA IPEC is the annual Collaborative Care Summit. The Summit is designed to promote interprofessional interactions between the many health profession students in our region.
- In 2012, 556 students and 122 facilitators participated at seven sites.
- The purpose of this analysis is to compare perceptions between pharmacy and medical students.

SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

- To discuss the importance of working in cooperation with health care providers and others who contribute to or support the delivery of health services.
- To compare and contrast the roles and responsibilities of other health care providers and how interprofessional teams work together to provide safe and effective patient care
- To reflect upon individual interpersonal communication skills, such as active listening, encouraging ideas and opinions of team members, and respect for others
- To describe the roles and responsibilities of effective interprofessional teams.
- To recognize the importance of patient centered care

SUMMIT OVERVIEW AND EVALUATION

- The content of this program is published on AAMC's MedEdPORTAL.
- Three hour program. 2012 Summit held on March 28.
- Program Outline
 - ✓ Large Group Presentation (60 min)
 - Keynote: Overview of IPE, NECPA IPEC
 - Student Videos on the professions
 - Introductory Trigger Case Video (ischemic stroke)
 - ✓ Small Group Discussion on Case
 - 10-12 students, 2 facilitators
 - ✓ Wrap-up (20 minutes)
- An online, post-summit survey, was sent to all participants. The survey consisted of Likert-based and open answered questions.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

- An independent t-test was used to evaluate potential differences in responses.
- A p-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.
- All other data was analyzed with descriptive statistics.
- Students responses to 3 reaction questions were coded and frequency counts obtained

RESULTS

- 556 students and 122 facilitators participated in the summit, representing 17 unique professions.
- Overall 54% of the students responded to the survey compared to 48% (n=30) of medical and 75% (n=50) of pharmacy students.

Mean Responses to Survey Question 1=Strongly Disagree to 5= Strongly Agree			
	Medicine (n=30)	Pharmacy (n=50)	P
Organization and Logistics			
The summit was well organized	4.27	4.22	NS
The opening session increased my knowledge of IPE.	4.07	3.80	NS
The case-discussion approach was an effective way to teach interprofessional concepts	4.17	4.38	NS
The facilitators in my small group were effective.	4.10	4.16	NS
Summit Objectives			
After attending the summit I am able to discuss the importance of working in cooperation with healthcare providers and others who contribute to or support the delivery of health services.	4.13	4.30	NS
After attending the summit, I am able to compare and contrast the roles and responsibilities of other health care providers and describe how interprofessional teams work together to provide safe and effective patient care.	3.97	4.28	0.029
After attending the summit, I am able to reflect upon individual interpersonal communication skills, such as, active listening, encouraging ideas and opinions of team members, and respect for others.	4.00	4.28	NS
After attending the summit, I am able to describe the roles and responsibilities of effective interprofessional teams.	3.90	4.32	0.003
After attending the summit, I am able to recognize the importance of patient centered care.	4.10	4.22	0.016
Overall			
Overall, this program was effective.	3.97	4.32	0.019

STUDENT COMMENTS

Beneficial aspects	
Learning about others and professions (24 comments)	
Med Students, 5 (38%)	Pharmacy Students, 19 (59%)
Illustrative Comment	
"I found it most beneficial to sit and listen to the roles each individual would play during various times in the patient case. I think many people, especially students, are grossly unaware of the knowledge and skills people in different areas of healthcare possess and I believe the summit accentuated this point."	
Opportunity to collaborate in a small group setting (14 comments)	
Med Students, 5 (38%)	Pharmacy Students, 9 (28%)
Illustrative Comment	
"I liked that we broke up into small groups to discuss the case. It made it a lot easier to contribute and listen."	

Suggestions for improvement	
Align case with students' experience level (11 comments)	
Med Students, 3 (17%)	Pharmacy Students, 8 (31%)
Illustrative Comment	
"I think it would have been much more beneficial to me to attend this during my second year when I have more clinical experience."	
"Maybe more cases, or less specific cases, would be more appropriate so that everyone gets a chance to talk about how they would effect the patient care."	
Small group experience (8 comments)	
Med Students, 2 (11%)	Pharmacy Students, 6 (8%)
Illustrative Comments	
"I would think that the facilitator could possibly take a smaller role, and allow the students to take charge of the case. I think that would allow for more discussion."	
"Try to have one health professional in every group. For example my group did not have a social worker or sonographer."	

Other Comments	
Session was great (13 comments)	
Med Students, 4 (33%)	Pharmacy Students, 9 (60%)
Illustrative Comment	
"What a great experience! I had my doubts before attending, but I must say I was pleasantly surprised and enjoyed myself."	
Provided opportunity to learn about others (7 comments)	
Med Students, 2 comments (17% of all comments)	Pharmacy Students, 5 comments (33% of all comments)
Illustrative Comment	
"I have a better understanding now about where each healthcare professional fits in to contribute to enhancing patient care."	

CONCLUSION

- Both pharmacy and medical students perceived the summit as well organized and delivered and there was no difference between groups.
- Pharmacy students were more likely to agree that summit objectives were met and were more likely to agree that the program was effective.

REFERENCES

Foote E, Szarek J, Arscott K, Brady J, Clarke V, Easton D, Farrell M, Goss S, Walline V, Waters S. A Large Scale, Collaborative Care Summit to Promote Interprofessional Learning: Ischemic Stroke. MedEdPORTAL; 2013. Available from: www.mededportal.org/publication/9306