

# Strengthening Collaborative Education using E-Learning Technologies

Creating a Knowledge Exchange Community  
of Learners and Educators to Improve the  
Mental Health of Canadians

## *FAQs* *Related to Interprofessional Education*

**1. What is interprofessional education (IPE)?**

Occasions when two or more professions learn from, with and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of patient care.

**2. What is the overall goal of interprofessional education?**

To enhance the skills, abilities, knowledge, and attitudes of learners to become partners who work together in a collaborative fashion, ultimately for the benefit of the patient and their family and caregivers.

**3. Why should clinicians engage in interprofessional continuing education?**

Clinicians who train with other professionals develop core competencies that strength their ability to collaborate with other health professionals and they are more familiar with the roles and responsibilities of their colleagues, which helps to ensure that consumers are receiving the best care from the most appropriate team member.

**4. What are the benefits of interprofessional education for practicing clinicians?**

An increased understanding of the roles, responsibilities, strengths and limitations of other professionals that result in better relationships and mutual respect between health care team members.

**5. Who should be involved in planning, implementing and evaluating interprofessional education activities?**

A broad range of primary health and mental health care providers; consumers, families and caregivers; community agencies; pre-licensure students; professional associations and accrediting bodies of continuing education; government policy makers; and administrators of academic institutions. Team-based delivery of care requires that all team members have a role in educating each other, within their given expertise.

**6. What are some barriers to interprofessional education?**

Time constraints and difficulty coordinating schedules; shortage of resources to plan and hold sessions; logistical obstacles; inequality in the number of students or representation of professional group; rigid preset pre-licensure curriculum; post-licensure recognition of continuing education credits; and lack of workplace 'buy in'

**7. What is the role of the facilitator of an interprofessional education program?**

To guide the activities and discussion within the session so that concepts and principles around trust, respect, role clarification and perceptions are adequately addressed.

**8. What is involved in a continuing education session ‘debriefing’?**

The facilitator asks participants to share their thoughts on ‘what they have learned’, ‘misconceptions that they had about team members or professions’, ‘their change in attitude about working in an interprofessional team’.

**9. What comes after continuing education training?**

Implementation! Consider how to incorporate the principles and concepts of interprofessional education into your current clinical activities. What other professionals/team members might you consider collaborating with in the future? How might you encourage your colleagues to participate in interprofessional activities?