

# 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 Team Practice***

### ***1. What is collaborative mental health care?***

Describes a range of models of practice in which consumers and their families and caregivers, together with health care providers from both mental health and primary health care settings, work together to promote mental health and provide more coordinated and effective services for individuals with mental health needs.

### ***2. What is primary mental health care?***

Mental health services provided in a primary health care setting (e.g., health provider office, community clinic, workplace, school, home, health care institutions, nursing homes, day care centres, etc.). Primary mental health care may also be available by telephone, health information services and the Internet.

### ***3. Is interprofessional team practice right for my organization?***

Consider working in interprofessional teams and providing interprofessional learning opportunities if:

- your practice or work environment involves more than one set of skills and knowledge to carry on day to day activities;
- no one person possesses those skills;
- if problems are complex and a multifaceted team will enhance the solution of a problem;
- and if individuals are working toward a common goal.

### ***4. What steps can be taken to facilitate team communications?***

Identify each team members' responsibilities; hold regularly scheduled team meetings; record and distribute action items; agree on how to communicate progress/changes between meetings.

### ***5. Why is interprofessional education and collaborative practice important in mental health care?***

By strengthening communication and drawing on the unique skills and contributions of different health professionals, providers are better equipped to address consumer and family needs related to health promotion, illness prevention, treatment, recovery and chronic care in a comprehensive manner.

### ***6. What methods can be used to facilitate knowledge exchange between team members?***

Dissemination of information and materials can occur at interactive sessions such as regularly scheduled meetings/teleconferences, informal case discussions, educational workshops, and conferences.