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Intra-professional education: Experiences of PN & BScN students learning together

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Undeniably, the future of healthcare must be built upon inter-professional approaches. Inter-professional practice (IPP) is central to promoting health and providing quality, patient-centered care. Previously, healthcare professionals were educated and practiced within a profession-specific model. Nursing education with no intersection between the learning experiences of BScN and PN nursing students is both flawed and ultimately detrimental to the profession. With the changes in scope of practice of RPNs in Ontario many significant areas of commonality in nursing education at both levels are undeniable. It is imperative that we recognize and capitalize on important opportunities for nursing students to learn both with and about each other promoting greater awareness of each other's role within the healthcare team leading to advances in intra-professional practice (IaPP) which will ultimately result in better health care outcomes. While the value of inter- and intra-professional education (IPE) in the health professions is commonly highlighted, gaps exist in the evidence related to IPE implementation in nursing education. As the scope of practice for RPNs and RNs has transitioned the demand has increased for graduates to collaborate, demonstrate respect and understanding of each other's role and work competently together in order to improve patient outcomes and promote patient safety. Learning with each other in areas where curricular foci are congruent is a critically important undertaking that has yet to be realized in post-secondary education in Ontario. This project is a first of its kind; innovative pilot PN-BScN shared learning experience in a required Health Assessment course.

Biography

Patricia Munro-Gilbert has completed her BScN from the University of Toronto in 1990 and MN in 2010. She has practiced as a Registered Nurse in Obstetrics for 20 years. She began her nursing education career as a Clinical Instructor in 2005, a Lecturer in 2010 at Durham College (DC) and University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) in the Collaborative BScN program and she is currently a Professor in the DC Practical Nursing program. Her research interests focus on improving intra-professional educational experiences for nursing students resulting in improved and enhanced intra-professional understanding, teamwork and collaboration in practice settings for nurses

Dana Chorney has been a Clinical Instructor and Professor in Durham College and University of Ontario Institute of Technology's collaborative BScN program since 1998. She has graduated from the University of Windsor in 1992 with a BScN and obtained her MN from the University of Toronto in 2004. Throughout her career, she has worked as a Registered Nurse and a Clinical Nurse Specialist. She has a keen desire to enhance and improve nursing education. With over 20 years of clinical experience in a medical-surgical environment, she values, implements and teaches best practice that enhance and improve patient safety and patient outcomes.

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