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Does IPE Improve Patient Safety?

Wendy Guzenski

INTRODUCTION

- Interprofessional Education (IPE) is defined as ‘ members or students of two or more professions associated with health or social care, engaged in learning with, from and about each other’
- IPE provides the ability to share skills and knowledge between professions and allows for a better understanding, shared values, and respect for the roles of other healthcare professionals.
- Today’s patients have complex health needs and typically require more than one discipline to address issues regarding their health status. (Bridges et al., 2011)

SIGNIFICANCE

- According to the Joint Commission Sentinel Events Statistics: Communication failure was the cause of over 70 percent of the errors or sentinel events reported to them in the 10 years between 1995 and 2005.
- Approximately 400,000 hospitalized patients each year experience some type of preventable harm
- Diagnostic errors result in death or injury to 40,000 to 80,000 patients per year according to the Joint Commission. Diagnostic errors are most common in primary care solo practice due to workload and the inability to cross-reference easily with colleagues (Rodziewicz,2020)

<http://www.jointcommission.org/SentinelEvents/Statistics>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK499956/>

POSITION STATEMENT

Interprofessional Education improves patient safety through collaboration and the common understanding of patient care decisions and goals.

SUPPORT FOR POSITION

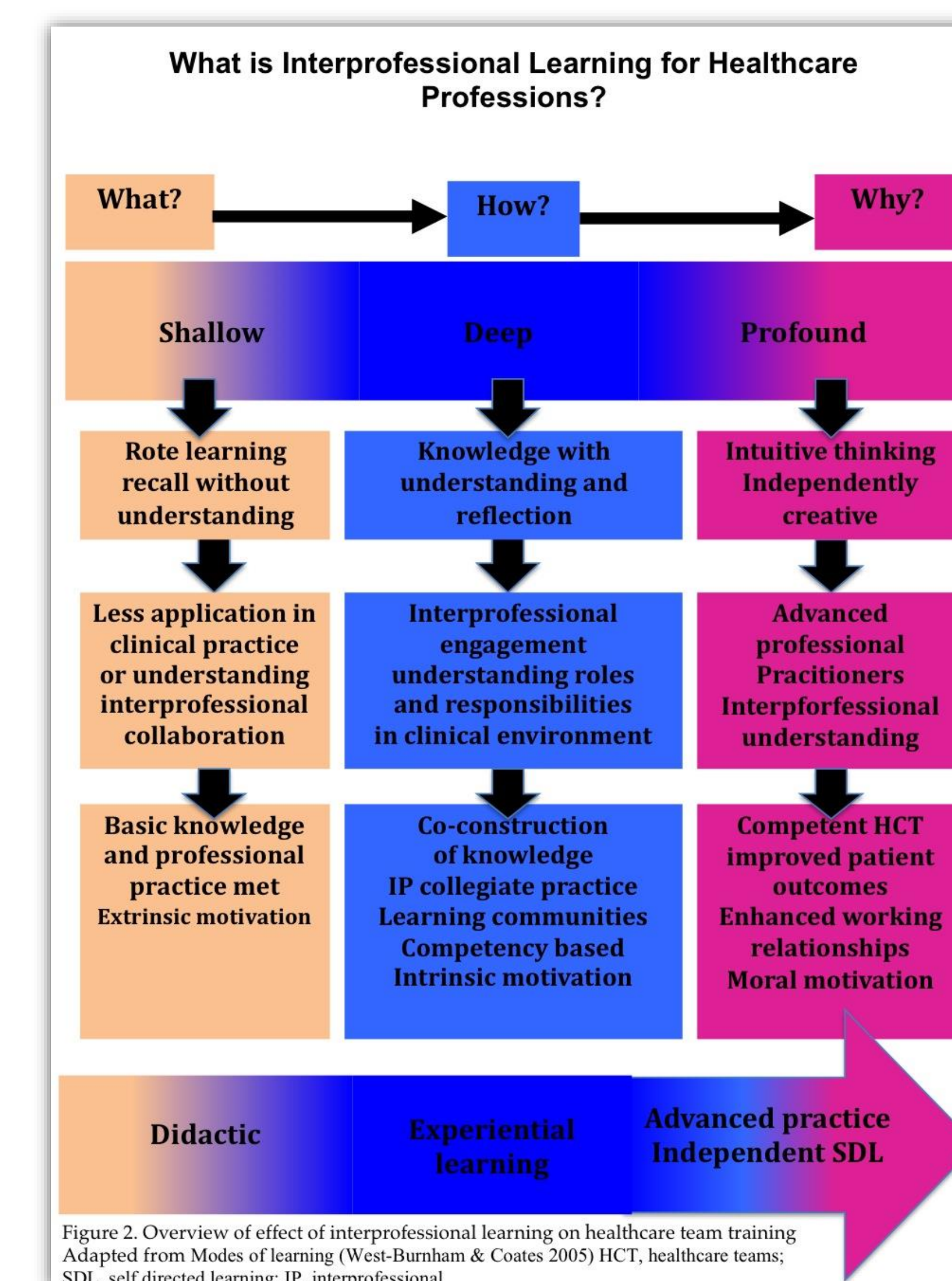
- The Institute of Medicine “revealed major failings within the American health care system, including poor communication and collaboration among health care providers. The medical community responded with a two-decade push to implement improvements, including incorporating interprofessional education (IPE) core competencies into many training and continuing education programs for allied health professionals.” (Musaji et al., 2019)
- To be an effective team and work together for patient safety, each member needs to see their roles as important to the team and there needs to be open communication. Poor interprofessional collaboration can have a negative effect on the quality of patient care. Good communication and the skills of being able to work interprofessionally are important for high quality patient care.



IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

The World Health Organization states that:

- “Interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPECP) is regarded as one of the key components for instructional and institutional reform needed in health professions education globally to ensure graduates are equipped with the competencies to address the health needs of populations in the 21st century”
- “One of the domains in interprofessional competency frameworks is communication and the ability to ensure the common understanding of care decisions and shared goals setting. (WHO, 2014)
- Elements of collaborative practice include responsibility, accountability, coordination, communication, cooperation, assertiveness, autonomy, and mutual trust and respect. (Bridges et al., 2011)



CONCLUSION

- Interprofessional Education provides collaboration and common understanding of patient care decisions and goals among different disciplines and provides for improved patient care and patient safety.
- By working together and having common goals there can be assurance of coordination and complete care of patients .
- To be an effective health care team, there needs to be open communication and shared skills, along with each member of the health care team seeing each other’s role as equally important.

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