

DOES IPE IMPROVE PATIENT SAFETY?

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INTRODUCTION

Inter-professional education (IPE) is when students from two or more professions in health and social care learn together during the educational process. (Buring et al., 2009)

Improving inter-professional relationships can directly increase beneficial patient outcomes and safety. (Buring et al., 2009)

According to studies a lack of communication among health care workers (HCW) can effect patients negatively. (Nester, 2016)

IPE can help improve communication among health care personnel and improve patient outcomes (Bachynsky, 2017).

The goal of IPE is for students to learn how to function within an interprofessional team and carry this knowledge into their future practice, ultimately providing interprofessional patient care as part of a collaborative team and focused on improving patient outcomes. (Buring et al., 2009, para. 7)

SIGNIFICANCE

- According to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and World Health organization (WHO) “Inadequate preparation of health professionals for working together, especially in interprofessional teams, has been implicated in a range of adverse outcomes, including lower provider and patient satisfaction, greater numbers of medical errors and other patient safety issues, low workforce retention, system inefficiencies resulting in higher costs, and sub optimal community engagement.” (Cox et al., 2015, p. 12)
- “With this multi-team approach, the Transitions of Care Program saw a 38% reduction in hospital readmissions rates and a 5.3% reduction in the mortality rate in the first year.” (Willard, 2018, para. 13)
- “...the health, welfare, and social care sectors often have been slower to implement team-based care and other models of collaboration, as well as the interprofessional education that is necessary to support and improve collaboration.” (Cox, 2015, p. 12)

POSITION STATEMENT

An improvement of inter-professional relationships is needed for health and social care professionals. This can be achieved through IPE in schools and healthcare facilities. Improved relationships and communication among health care workers will improve patient safety and outcomes. Teamwork and communication among health and social care workers is essential for the best patient outcomes and safety.

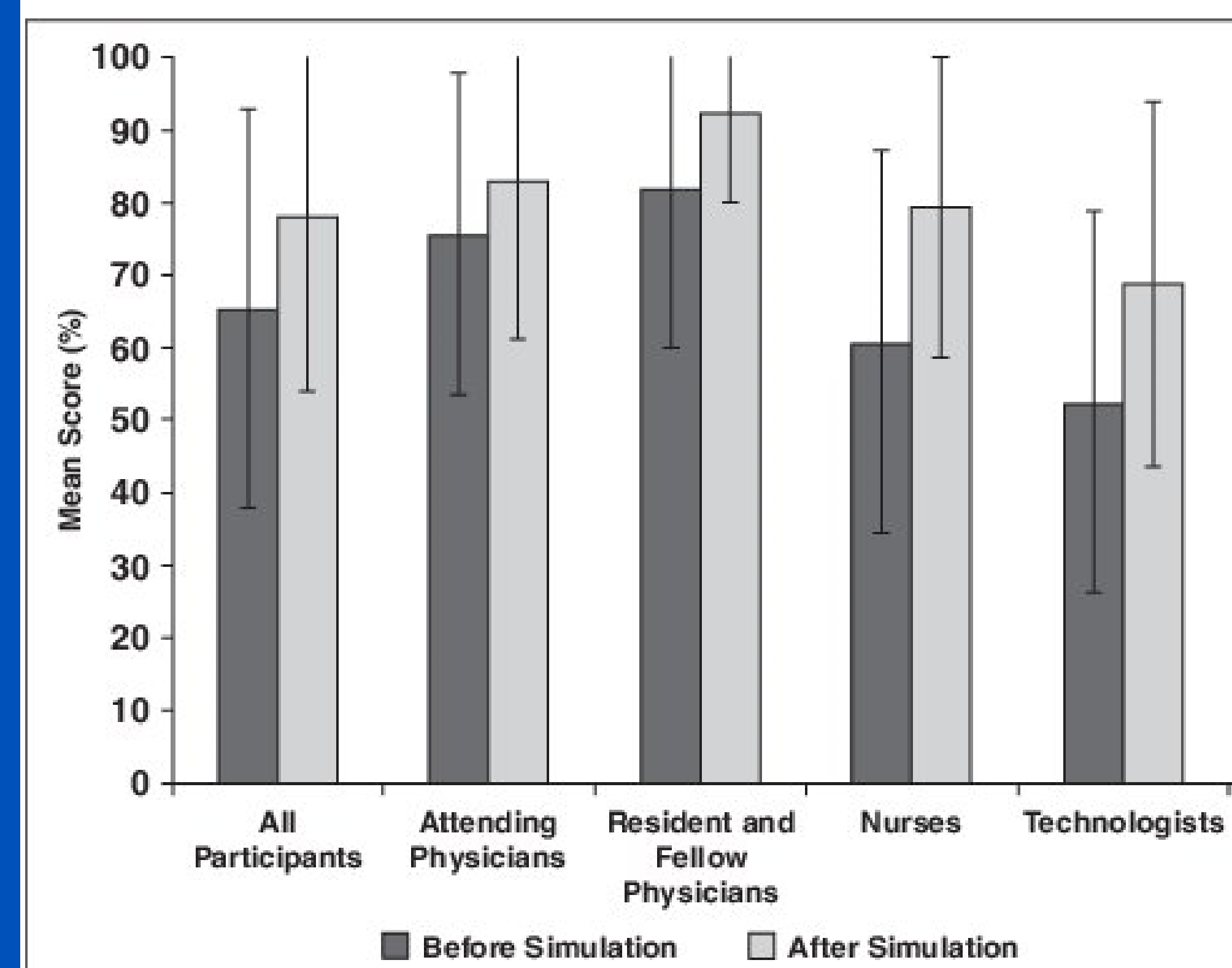
SUPPORT FOR POSITION

- “With the introduction of core competencies for interprofessional collaborative practice and new accreditation standards, IPE increasingly is being introduced at this early stage and has been shown to have positive learning outcomes.” (Cox, 2015, p. 15)
- “Given the complexity of today’s health care environment, no single discipline is equipped to direct the multitude of providers who make up the care team.” (Nester, 2016, para. 20) – IPE is needed to create a solid relationship between health care workers.
- “All health professionals should be educated to deliver patient-centered care as members of an interprofessional team, emphasizing evidence-based practice, quality improvement approaches, and informatics.” (Buring et al., 2009, para. 2)

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

For Nursing schools and students:

- “Nurses are an integral part of interprofessional care and often serve as the “connector” between the professionals that comprise the healthcare team.” (Bachynsky, 2017, p. 1)
- “The WHO recommended that healthcare students participate in interprofessional (or multi-disciplinary) education activities...” (Bachynsky, 2017, p.1)
- “In the United States, academic accrediting bodies for dentistry, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, psychology, public health, and social work programs now require interprofessional education.” (Bachynsky, 2017, p. 2)
- Nurses are in direct contact with patients, so it is crucial that they advocate for their patient’s and communicate with the rest of the inter-professional team to have the best patient outcomes.
- The following graph shows the results of test scores before and after an IPE simulation.



(Niell et al., 2015)

CONCLUSION

IPE should be part of health and social care curriculum and part of continued educational programs.

Students should learn how to work within the interdisciplinary teams to maximize the patient's outcomes, care, and safety.

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