Implementing Interprofessional Collaborative Care in a Teaching Health Clinic:

A Quality Improvement Pilot Project

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Abstract

 Introduction: Florence Nightingale, a pioneer in the field of healthcare, (1860) identified in her Notes on Nursing early issues with care coordination. Decades later we face the same concerns of coordinating care to meet the expanding population of patients with complex healthcare needs. A collaborative care model with an interprofessional composition can meet the challenge to provide accessible, comprehensive care in a coordinated manner.

Methods: This quality improvement project was based in an ambulatory care clinic in Eastern Washington. The intervention was a collaborative care conference with faculty and residents coupled with university partners for a patient with complex healthcare issues. Participants completed a post-intervention debriefing and pre/post intervention Interprofessional Collaborative Competencies Attainment Survey.

 Results: The post-intervention debriefing demonstrated themes that participants had an increase in their knowledge of other interprofessional roles and the format provided unique insights for management and future patient care. The ICCAS pre/post-survey demonstrated an increase in the level of interprofessional collaborative care competency in five of six areas.

Conclusion: An interprofessional collaborative care team conference with a residency clinic and university partners results in improved perception of the ability to collaborate as a team and can provide a unique platform for collaborative management and resources.