



School of Nursing

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Working Together to Treat Tobacco Dependence among Smokers with Serious Mental Illness

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Research Team

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Objectives

- 💡 Discuss the merits of tobacco education targeting the unique clinical needs of persons with mental illness
- 💡 Appraise the feasibility of an interprofessional collaborative approach to tobacco dependence treatment for persons with mental illness
- 💡 Formulate strategies for integrating IPE into health professions curricula

Background

- No decline in prevalence of tobacco use among persons with mental illness in past ten years despite decline in general population
- Clinicians are reluctant to engage in cessation counseling
- More contacts with HCP = increased odds of quitting
- IPE may prepare collaborative-practice ready clinicians

Purpose

- Develop an IPE experience for graduate health professional students
- Tackle a clinical problem using an interprofessional collaborative practice approach
- Assess the impact of the IPE experience on students' perceived attitudes and perceptions about IP collaborative practice
- Assess the impact of the training on self-reported counseling abilities & perceived self-efficacy

Methods

- 1-group pre/posttest design using qualitative and quantitative methodology
- Purposive sample of health professional students
 - $N=36$ [$n=13$ nursing, $n=9$ pharmacy, and $n=14$ social work]
- 5 hours of tobacco education training
 - Online module
 - Face-to-face training
 - Simulation with a standardized patient & group debriefing*

*included students & faculty from nursing, social work, & pharmacy

Results

- Participants' perceived self-efficacy and self-rated counseling abilities were significantly improved at post-test
- All students reported high perceived ability to provide interprofessional care and to work as part of an interprofessional team
 - No significant differences between types of students

Results

- “... coming from a social work background I don't know a lot about the medications. I liked being able to see that coming from the nursing discipline. I thought it was extremely helpful.”
- “Pharmacists are really knowledgeable. I guess I didn't realize how much they can help.”
- “This is great, but I will never get to do this in practice....no one works interprofessionally, not really.”

Conclusions

- An interprofessional team approach appears to improve cessation counseling abilities and enhance self-efficacy
- Health professional students value the opportunity to learn about, and from, each other
- Larger studies are needed to validate the results of this pilot study

Conclusions

- Bridge gap between theory and practice (IP clinical sites)
- IPE may increase the likelihood of collaborative practice behaviors

Lessons Learned

- IPE requires more than placing students in the same classroom
- Can never have too much interaction between professions
- Explore profession-based subcultures & underlying values and beliefs

Lessons Learned

- Prepare faculty to face the challenges of IPE
- Establish relationships between faculty prior to experience
- Need a bridge between classroom & real-life experiences



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