THE MEDICAL STUDENT COLLABORATIVE:
An Innovative Model to Improve Interprofessional Collaboration, Communication, and Patient Care

This experience affords fourth year medical students the opportunity to work alongside an experienced critical care outreach nurse.

**Student Objectives**
- Enhance critical thinking in emergent situations
- Improve confidence in caring for decompensating patients
- Engage in interdisciplinary planning and facilitation of patient care

**Process**
- Fourth year medical students shadowed a highly skilled, experienced critical care outreach nurse for a single seven-hour shift
- Shift priorities included:
  - Management of clinical emergencies
  - Critical care consultations
  - Surveillance of patients at risk for decompensation
- Learning outcomes were measured using an anonymous survey with a numerical rating scale and open response (N=29)

**Conclusion**
- Outcomes demonstrate alignment with core competencies identified by the Interprofessional Educational Collaborative (2016)
- Effects of interprofessional collaboration on patient and nurse outcomes warrant further investigation

**Emergent Themes**
- 13% Interdisciplinary Operations
- 37% Teaching and Learning
- 25% Communication and Collaboration
- 25% Role Definition

**Student Outcomes**
- 72% Reported that the experience increased confidence in the recognition and management of decompensating patients
- 97% Indicated improved understanding of how collaborative teaching and learning experiences impact nurse and patient outcomes
- 90% Shared that they have an improved understanding of interdisciplinary communication
- 72% Believed this experience was worth their time

**Teaching & Learning**
- “They were great teachers. They were very patient with me. They also made sure I was in on all the action. They explained all that they were doing and what their job entails. I had a great time and learned a lot.”

**Role Definition**
- “I realized the role of nurses and how they are an integral part of the healthcare team. It is essential to have good communication with them for the benefit of the patient’s care.”

**Communication & Collaboration**
- “I have better insight into patient care issues from a nursing perspective. This should be an integrated part of medical school for all specialties!”

**Interdisciplinary Operations**
- “It helped me understand the responsibilities of nurses and the functions of different ancillary staff in the hospital. I think it was a tremendous experience in fostering interdisciplinary understanding.”
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References


