

Patients' Role in Inter-professional Education in the Community



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Objective

To evaluate patients' role and how they impact on our inter-professional elderly service learning program in terms of enhancing geriatric care skills, knowledge and understanding on patients' needs to pre-licensure health professional and social work students.



Our Program & Project

- Community Health And Medication-safety Promotion Inter-school Outreach Network (CU CHAMPION) is an inter-professional education (IPE) service learning program at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- We organize outreach project every summer to provide a platform for students to serve the Hong Kong community. This poster illustrates patients' role and the impact in our community outreach project in Summer 2018.

Students & IPE Activities

- 206 students participated during May-August 2018. Prior to the community outreach, the students had to attend a compulsory workshop to refine their skills.
- Teachers from each discipline prepared e-learning materials for self learning purpose.
- The community outreach project provided students with the opportunities to work as a multi-disciplinary team and provide health service to elderly patients.



Students Composition				Service Content		Community Outreach	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursing	76	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Work	9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health interview & preliminary assessment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elderly Patients	3122
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy	64	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Health	7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Document drug waste for proper disposal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Partners	44
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicine	27	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biomedical Sciences	6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide basic health check		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Professional	51
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chinese Medicine	14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Health Practice	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interpret health education		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers	
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Serve with peers of different disciplines			



Patients' Role

Patients were the key learning facilitators in this project. They were willing to share their life experience, health, and understanding of health topics. These information were essential for students to examine and identify their physical, psychosocial, and knowledge needs.



Information from Patients

Impact on Students

Personal Background		Impact on Students	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education Level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Living Condition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Be a good listener & learn the patients' stories	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Career Before Retirement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Care / Need Carer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Understand how patients' background could matter their health outcomes	
Health Condition		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observe patients' visible and invisible symptoms due to diseases and other health conditions	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chronic & Recent Illnesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Difficulties in Using Medications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify patients' difficulties in all aspects	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Challenges in Health System			
Lifestyle		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance the skills to investigate and examine how patients' lifestyles correlate to their health condition	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Challenges in Daily Life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exercise Routine		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dietary Habit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Engagement		
Knowledge		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use laymen terms to conduct knowledge transfer	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drug Waste Disposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antibiotic Products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborate with, and learn new skills from peers of other disciplines	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use of Chinese Medicine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Welfare Policies		

Results & Findings

According to the pre (n=141) & post (n=139) project assessments, the students enjoyed and were satisfied with the multi-disciplinary setting in community outreach. They also treasured the time spent with the elderly patients. Furthermore, they acknowledged that the outreach was helpful to strengthen their knowledge and career goals. On the other hand, 94% of the patients (n=1062) responded that university students' participation in this project was meaningful.

Key Knowledge Change				Students' Feedback & Satisfaction (n=148)		
+18.6% Geriatric Care Knowledge (p<0.001)	+12.9% Understand Elders' Needs (p<0.001)	+15% Medication Safety (p<0.001)	+3% Communication Skills (p=0.051)	81% Enjoyed helping patient with their physical & psychological needs	91% Improved attitude & concept of IP Collaboration	90% Enjoyed collaborating with other disciplines

Conclusion

Patients were both service recipients and learning facilitators in our IPE project. Despite providing health service to the patients, students also improved their skills and translated knowledge in the community.

Take-home Message

Patients' role and involvement are crucial for the growth and upbringing of pre-licensesure health professional and social work students.