



## **Interprofessional Collaboration and Caring in the Philippines**

**Maria Imelda O. Javier**

**Dean, College of Nursing**

**UPHSD, Las Pinas Campus**

Interprofessional collaboration is fairly a new innovation in health care delivery in modern society. Filipino nurses used to work in hospitals and health facilities together with other health professionals but the focus of practice was usually individualistic. This led to concerns such as fragmented care and patient dissatisfaction.

In the early part of the 21st century, there was a move to integrate health care services through interprofessional collaboration in order to deliver better care as well as to improve client outcomes. But what is Interprofessional collaboration? According to Dr. Charles P. Vega and Nurse Amy Bernard (2016), IPC is defined as "when multiple health workers from different professional background work together with patients, families, cares and communities to deliver the highest quality of care. It is based on the concept that when providers consider each other's perspectives, including that of the patient, they can deliver better care.

In the Philippines, the health care system recognized the importance of IPC so that effort was made to institutionalize this innovation. In medical centers in our country, IPC occurs involving different health care professionals in order to discuss, integrate and harmonize the treatment and care plan for the patient. This IPC conferences are conducted regularly and are usually headed by the main attending physician. In these conferences, the patient and family participate in order for them to understand the whole treatment plan. They can ask questions and agree or disagree if they need to make significant decisions in IPC, the health care team considers the patient as the central figure in the whole treatment process.

In the Philippines, this IPC is very much practiced in the Philippine General Hospital and in big medical centers like St. Luke's Hospital, Asian Hospital and the University of Perpetual Help Medical Center among others. As an offshoot of this innovation, universities, and colleges designed classes where several health care students enrolled in different health programs like Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical and

Occupational Therapy, Radiologic Technology Medical Technology, Respiratory Therapy, and Midwifery attend the same courses that are common to all. These include Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology and Parasitology, Biochemistry, Biostatistics, and Bioethics so that early on, they would be able to establish harmonious working relationship with each other.

It has been established that patient satisfaction improved as a result of IPC, therefore it is highly recommended that it be adopted fully in order to produce better outcomes.

Thank you.

#### **【References】**

C.P.Vega and Amy Bernard. Interprofessional Collaboration to Improve Health Care: An Introduction. Medscape 2019

Amir Babiker et al. Health care professional development: Working as a team to improve patient care. Sudanese Journal of Paediatrics. 2014

Department of Health, Philippines. Public Health Nursing.

University of Perpetual Help Medical Center, Manual of Operations, Systems, and Processes