

# Partnered Learning Project

## Consent to Participate in a Research Study

### Title of research project

The Partnered Learning Project

### Investigators

Lorelei Lingard 416-813-8912

Susan Tallett

Bonnie Flemming-Carroll

David Nicholas

Michele Durrant

Lynne Sinclair

Mandy Lowe

### Sponsorship

This study is sponsored by Health Force Ontario (The Ontario Ministry of Health).

### Purpose of the research

The purpose of this study is to implement and evaluate two integrated training programs: a training module in interprofessional collaboration (IPC) designed for practicing teams of health care professionals and (2) an interprofessional education (IPE) placement for students in the health professions (medicine, nursing, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology and pharmacy). This research will assess the effectiveness and challenges of these training programs, and it will also establish a mechanism for partnering interprofessional practice with pre-licensure interprofessional education. This research will involve two selected teams at each of three health care institutions (SickKids, Toronto Rehab Institute, and CHEO).

### Background and significance

The Romanow Report (2002) identified that more effective collaboration would be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of healthcare delivery in Canada. However, few situated models of how interprofessional collaboration works in practice are available, and fewer models situate the link between interprofessional *collaboration* and interprofessional *education* across multiple contexts of care (i.e., different clinical areas, institutions, and care settings). This project will develop a situated, cross-sectional understanding of interprofessional practice and pre-licensure interprofessional education, *as they inform one another*, across multiple institutions and in a variety of clinical areas.

### What will participation involve?

You are being asked to participate in this study because you are a member of an existing interprofessional care team that has been selected for possible involvement in this project. Participating in this study involves a number of activities, each of which is described below.

#### ***Team training***

You will be asked to participate in the interprofessional collaboration training module. The participants will include approximately 12 of the people you work with regularly from your own

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and other professions. A total of 8 hours of training (broken into several sessions) will be scheduled outside of regular care activities.

After the team training module is complete, your team will be matched with a group of pre-licensure students from a range of health professions who have independently selected an interprofessional education placement. The placement itself is independent of this study and will not require you to change your clinical practice in any specified way. You may, however, be shadowed by a student one morning of the week during your clinical work in the unit and be interviewed by that student for their final placement project.

## ***Researcher observation***

We are also asking you to take part in this study by allowing a researcher to observe your team's regular work intermittently for one month before and two months following the team training module. A trained observer will record observational data regarding the team's collaborative practices. He or she may also, at convenient moments, ask for explanations of these practices. No names will be recorded in these observation notes; you will be identified by your role on the team only (e.g., "attending physician", "physical therapist"). The observations will last for 2–3 hours and will take place 2–3 times per week. Observers will not interrupt the team's work and will not observe in individual patients' rooms.

## ***Interview participation***

We will invite you to participate in a single audiorecorded interview regarding your experience with the team-training initiative (both the interprofessional collaboration module and your involvement as a learning-partner in the pre-professional placement initiative). The interview will last 30–60 minutes and will be conducted either by a member of the research team or by a research coordinator. The taped interview will be transcribed. No names will appear in the transcript; you will be identified by your role on the team only (e.g., "attending physician", "physical therapist"). Only the project team will have access to the anonymized transcripts.

## ***Survey completion***

Before and after taking part in the training module, you will be asked to fill out a survey regarding team members' attitudes toward collaborative work. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

## **Potential harms, injuries, discomforts or inconvenience**

There are no known harms associated with participating in this study. Participants may feel inconvenienced by attending the training sessions or by completing the survey. Some participants may feel uncomfortable being observed. In our experience from previous studies, people usually get used to the observers within the first few observation sessions.

## **Potential benefits**

You may or may not benefit directly from participating in this study. The team training module and partnered-learning placement may enhance your awareness of your own and your colleagues' collaborative practices. We expect that this study will help us to refine the interprofessional practice and interprofessional education curricula. We hope that this project will serve as a model for future, inter-institutional collaborations.

## **Confidentiality**

All information obtained during the study will be held in strict confidence. No names or identifying information will be used in any publication or presentations.

## **Participation**

Participation in research is voluntary. If you choose not to participate, it will not affect your employment experience at Sick Kids. If you choose to participate in this study, you can withdraw

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from the study at any time. You may also opt to not participate in *specific components* of the research study, as described above, by simply letting the researcher know.

## Questions

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the study coordinator, Fauzia Gardezi, at 416-813-7654, ext. 3129. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact the Manager of the Hospital for Sick Children Research Ethics Board, Ms. Margo Farren at 416-813-5718.

## Consent

I have had the opportunity to discuss this study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I consent to take part in the study with the understanding that I may withdraw at any time, from any component of the project, without affecting my employment experience at Sick Kids hospital. .

_____	_____	_____
Name of participant (please print)	Signature	Date

I confirm that I have explained the nature of the study to the participant. I have answered all questions.

_____	_____	_____
Name of person who obtained consent	Signature	Date