

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-Caroll

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 student who has selected an elective placement in interprofessional education. Participating in this study involves the first two activities described below. You may also choose whether or not to participate in a third component of the study by checking the appropriate box after the third activity.

Survey completion

At the beginning and end of your placement, you will be asked to fill out a survey regarding attitudes toward interprofessional education. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Observations

We are also asking you to take part in this study by allowing a researcher to observe your interactions with your assigned clinical team member, should you be present during scheduled observations of that clinical team's regular work. 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

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will be recorded in these observation notes; you will be identified by your role on the team only (e.g., “IPE student”). 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.

Analysis of final project

Your final project for this placement will involve an interview with one of the team members whom you have shadowed during the placement. We will be collecting and analyzing a set of final projects completed by students from a range of health care professional programs. With your consent, we will include your (anonymized) final project in our analysis.

I consent to the inclusion of my anonymized final project: Yes No

Potential harms, injuries, discomforts or inconvenience

There are no known harms associated with participating in this study. Participants may feel inconvenienced 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 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 educational 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