

Partnered Learning Project

IPE Placement Materials

Shadowing Task Sheet

Guidelines for your shadowing experience:

Interprofessional Education is about learning with, from and about each other. To facilitate this, shadowing a healthcare professional different from your own professional background is valuable. This task sheet has been designed to benefit you and the healthcare professional you will shadow so that you both have a clear idea of what you need to achieve during your shadowing experience.

The objective of the shadowing experience is to give you an opportunity to:

- Learn the role of another healthcare profession in relation to patient care
- Observe the types of communication that the healthcare professional has with patients, and contrast how this is different from your own professions communication style.
- Discuss with the healthcare professional how your two professions would interact with each other and collaborate in relation to patient care.

During your shadowing experience please consider the healthcare professionals interactions and communication with the patient, and the interactions and communication with the healthcare team. For example, **verbal** - use of technical language, checking understanding of the patient, questioning styles (open/closed questions), seeking/giving information; **written** – discharge/clinic letter, information leaflets; use of medical/accessible language; **non-verbal** – standing up, sitting down, eye contact, touch.

The following list of questions will help you guide your thoughts and questions during your shadowing experience.



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Please discuss the following with the healthcare professional:

1. *Does your observation reflect a typical day?*

2. *What types of communication does the healthcare professional normally have with patients and what information do they normally give? At what points during the patient's care do they communicate with patients?*

3. *What do you see as the role of the Healthcare professional from your observation? Clarify these observations with the professional you are observing.*

4. *Does the interprofessional team discuss and agree on the information that is shared with patients/significant other(s) and who will give this information?*

5. *With what other professions would the healthcare professional normally communicate?*

6. *Would the healthcare professional normally communicate with a member of your healthcare profession and if so, in what situations?*