

Forensic Psychiatric Nursing: Promoting Collaboration Between Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and Forensic Psychiatry

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ABSTRACT

A collaborative partnership among health care providers improves communication, delineates roles, enhances professional competence, and improves overall delivery of quality care. Conversely, lack of collaboration in the health care system compromises quality of care that results in increased human and financial losses. Interprofessional collaboration (IPC) is an essential practice element in the forensic psychiatric mental health field. There is an increasing number of nurses employed in the forensic setting, working with psychiatrists, physicians, psychologists, social workers, and rehabilitation therapists. Nurses working in prisons, jails, and forensic psychiatric hospitals perform specialized duties due to the use and application of clinical nursing skills to patients who have had interactions with the legal system. Scope and standards of forensic nursing practice have been established and yet nurses are underutilized resources in terms of what the scope of practice entails.

OBJECTIVE

This presentation seeks to encourage quality improvement initiatives to: a) promote collaboration among practitioners in the forensic psychiatric field; b) expand nurses' role and provide opportunities for nurses and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners to expand their professional roles; and c) endorse the utilization of advanced practice nurses in the psychiatric mental health field to become key players in the practice of forensic psychiatry.

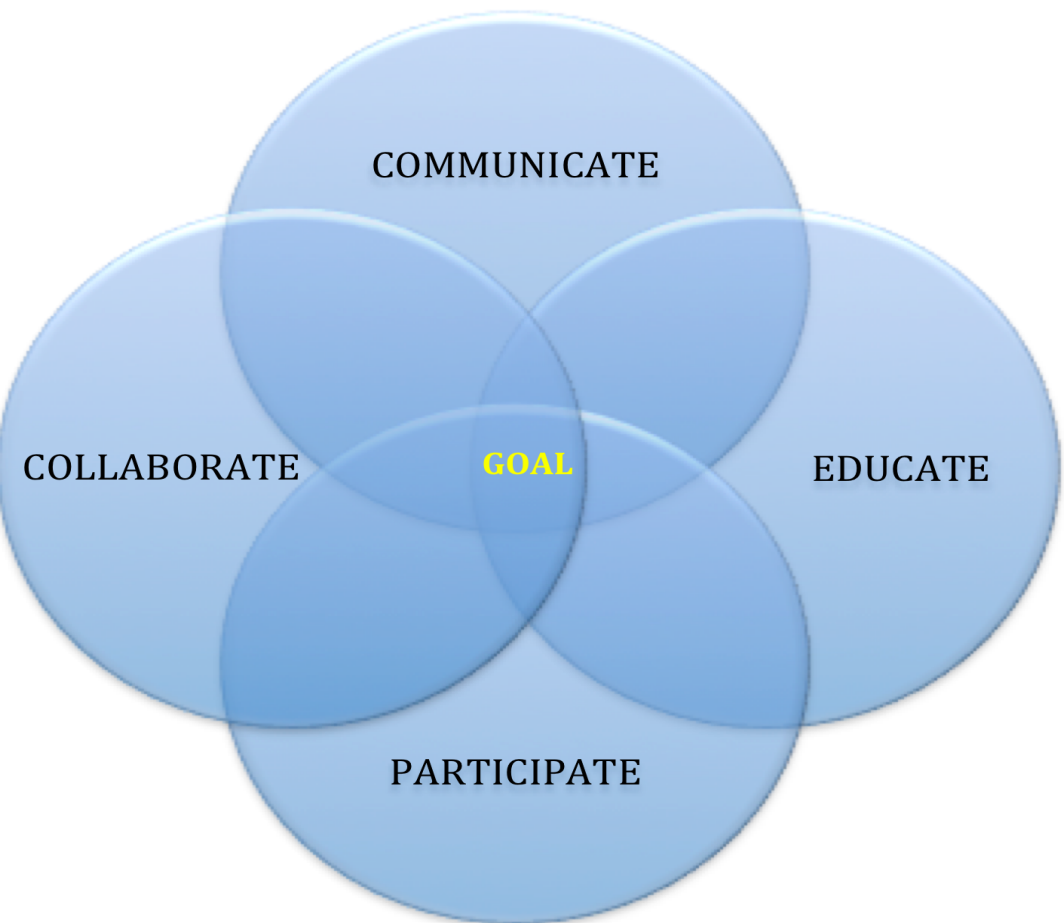
Definition

Interprofessional collaboration (IPC) is the transformation of health care delivery from a multidisciplinary method to an interdisciplinary approach wherein a team of different health professionals, including the client, coordinate, collaborate, and participate in the decision-making process

(Suter, et. al., 2012) (Orchard, Curran, & Kabene, 2005)

CONCEPTUAL MODEL

Interprofessional Collaboration



How to facilitate IPC to achieve goal:

Educate: refine mental health expertise among specialty providers – enhance competence, knowledge, and skills; educate about IPC

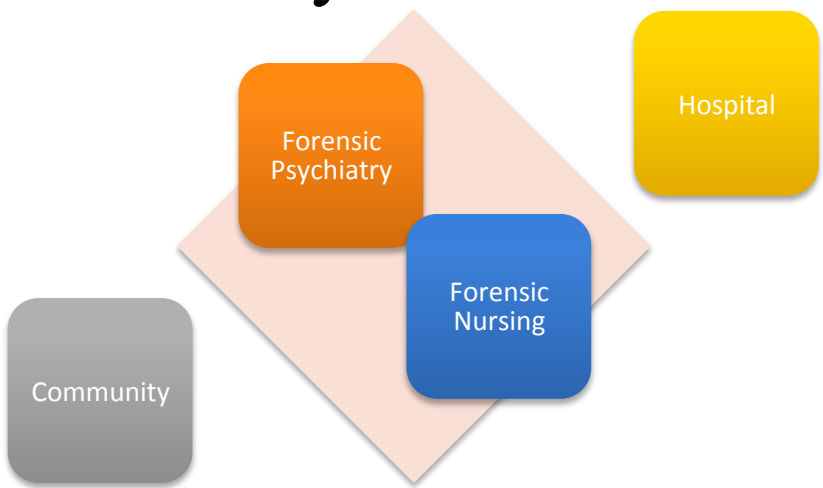
Communicate: regular IP meetings – daily professional rounds, externally-facilitated IP audit; use information technology

Collaborate: foster mutual respect among members – understand professional roles

Participate: understand mutual goals – value each other’s opinions

(Robichaud, et.al., 2012) (Buscemi, Steglitz, & Spring 2012) (Bischoff, Springer, & Reisbig, 2012)

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CONCLUSION

Nurses are the largest health care workforce in the mental health field. They have the potential to initiate a dynamism to broaden IPC that can link various disciplines in the criminal justice system. Further research is needed to expand IPC in the care of the forensic psychiatric population.

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