

Bringing Baccalaureate Nursing and Health Science Students Together for Oral Health IPE in the Simulation Lab



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Introduction

The IOM's committee's vision for oral health care is to allow quality care across the life cycle. Interprofessional education (IPE) and training among dental and non-dental health care professionals will be important for a work-ready collaborative practice team. Understanding the role of health science (allied health) professionals and participating in shared activities around oral health are important aspects of IPE allowing nurses and health science professionals to contribute to team-based care and further the goal of incorporating oral health care into overall care.

Objectives and Intended Outcomes

- Bring together baccalaureate nursing and health science students through a shared core set of oral health competencies and standardized simulation experiences
- Develop acute care and community oral health simulation resources for use in IPE between nursing and health science programs.

Methods

- The Smiles for Life Interprofessional Comprehensive Oral Health Curriculum was used as anchor content and woven into specified nursing and health science courses and activities.
- The Student Satisfaction and Self-Confidence in Learning (SSSCL₁₈) was administered to students post learning activities to assess personal attitudes about instruction and oral health IPE experiences they received during course work and simulated activities.



Results

This project is in-progress. Preliminary data reports are positive. To date students (N=33) have completed post experience evaluations and have participated in an oral debriefing. Emerging comments include:

- *"I never knew the importance of oral health for hospital patients"*-NURS
- *"I never realized nursing students did all this for patients..."*-HLSC
- *"Having other students (HLSC) here gave the patients better care"*-NURS
- *"It was different teaching around dental medications; I now realize how important it is"*-NURS

Conclusions

- Understanding the role of the allied health professional and participating in shared activities around oral health allow nurses and allied health professionals to contribute to team-based care and further the goal of incorporating oral health care into overall care. Future plans include a larger sample of students, the inclusion of family nurse practitioner students and expanded simulation scenarios.

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