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# Interprofessional Practice Simulation in the Management of Older Adults Experiencing Complex Medical & Psychiatric Comorbidities

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# Abstract:

A comprehensive, holistic approach to healthcare supports quality patient outcomes (Tang, 2019). Educators are tasked to create dynamic, conducive learning environments within interprofessional teams. A synchronous, interprofessional simulation was created to evaluate students’ attitudes towards interprofessional teams and the team approach to care. The purpose of this project is to provide an opportunity to improve student competency, attitudes, and perceptions about interprofessional practice through participation in a synchronous interprofessional simulation focused on comprehensive assessment and development of an interprofessional treatment plan.

This unique simulation focuses on the interactions of an interprofessional team with a hospitalized, older adult patient with psychiatric and medical comorbidities. Faculty in the Psychiatric Mental Health and Acute Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner tracks, Pharmacy, and Occupational Therapy programs collaborated to offer this synchronous simulation as a passport activity to students in these disciplines. To maximize the students’ interprofessional practice skills and knowledge, faculty identified that the addition of a standardized patient would facilitate opportunities to directly complete a discipline specific assessment. This interprofessional simulation supports enhancement of occupational therapy, nursing, and pharmacy students’ understanding of the unique and shared roles and contributions in the treatment planning of vulnerable high-risk patients.