

Title: Effects of Participation in an Interprofessional Student-Run Free Clinic on Achievement of Core Curricular Competencies.

Authors: Tamar Nobel, David Lawrence, Hiren Bakhta, Klara Papp

Institution: Case Western Reserve University Student-Run Free Clinic

Presented at:

1. The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Conference on Medical Student Education, February 2012,
2. The Society of Student-Run Free Clinics annual conference, February 2012,
3. The Irwin H. Lepow Medical Student Research Day, February 2012

Background: The Case Western Reserve University Student-Run Free Clinic (SRFC) is the first of its kind: an interprofessional clinic formed through a collaboration between medical and nursing students that is dedicated to providing interprofessional clinical learning experiences to its volunteers. This study aims to evaluate the impact of such experiences on volunteer attitudes towards interprofessional learning and the fulfillment of core curricular competencies (CCCs).

Question: The goal of this study is to evaluate the perceptions of nursing and medical students who have participated in the development and execution of a SRFC towards both interprofessional learning experiences and these experiences' applicability towards CCCs.

Methods: Students involved in the SRFC from both the CWRU Schools of Medicine and Nursing were administered a survey containing a readiness for interprofessional learning (RIPLS) questionnaire designed to measure the effects of interprofessional educational interventions on students' attitudes (1). The survey also assessed the students' perceptions of whether or not their experiences with the SRFC contributed to the fulfillment of the CCCs defined by their respective graduate programs.

Results/Conclusions: We're excited to report that the SRFC is widely perceived by medical and nursing student participants to be strongly applicable to some or all of the CCCs defined by their respective graduate programs. Without a pre-SRFC-experience survey, findings from the post-experience RIPLS are less conclusive, but we are able to conclude that both medical and nursing students held strongly positive attitudes towards interprofessional learning at the conclusion of their experiences. We are in the process of collecting data from students who have completed RPLS both before and after volunteering at the SRFC and we hope to learn more about the explicit effect of the SRFC experience on student attitudes towards interprofessional learning activities in the future.

Reference:

1. Parsell G, et al., Med Educ. 1999 Feb;33(2):95-100.

Support: The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, CWRU School of Medicine, CWRU School of Nursing, The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland, CVS Pharmacy, PizzaBogo