Real-time Assessment of Interprofessional Teamwork

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Medicine and Nebraska Medicine have partnered to train interprofessional student teams to directly observe, and adequately assess, interprofessional and collaborative practice in the HIV/AIDS ambulatory setting.

Over a 3-month time period, medical students (n=3), pharmacy students (n=3) and Family Nurse Practitioner students (n=4) will:

- Complete self-directed curricular modules related to the care of patients with HIV/AIDS as well as on interprofessional and collaborative practice.
- Explore and reflect upon the material learners with interprofessional faculty in the HIV/AIDS specialty clinic.
- Directly observe practitioners in the clinic using the SAW-IT (Structured Assessment Worksheet for Interprofessional Teamwork) Tool that is currently undergoing validation studies (Nickol, 2015).
- Document the assessment using a novel hand-held mobile app via smartphone, tablet or laptop computer.

SAW-IT Assessment Tool and App

The SAW-IT Assessment Tool utilizes these five questions:

1. The plan of care is developed collaboratively by the team, including the patient, and/or family
2. Team members actively look for ways to contribute to the care of the patient
3. Team members use the expertise of other team members
4. Communication among team members is effective
5. Team members share feedback about team performance

Each of the five questions is rated using this scale:
1: Almost never (< 10% of the time)
2: Rarely (10 - 20%)
3: Sometimes (21 - 50%)
4: Usually (51 - 90%)
5: Almost always (>90%).

Need / Gap Addressed

Direct observation is best conducted in as unobtrusive a manner as possible to gain the most unbiased results. Accessibility to a handheld app to complete the assessment instrument enhances efficiency and promotes data collection in real-time.

Other benefits and applications are:
- Students can self-assign this observation tool as many times as they observe a team, without waiting for the assignment by an instructor or investigator, thus allowing flexibility in observation schedules.
- Assessment results can be uploaded to a learning record store (LRS) via xapi statements and housed in a secure, cloud-based, FERPA/HIPPA compliant system.
- Completed assessments can be analyzed automatically and create dashboards for feedback and ongoing monitoring.
- Opportunity for “nano-coaching” to train learners and practitioners in real time using uploaded videos/photos of interprofessional tasks or activities taken via smartphones or tablets.

Resources Needed and Potential Barriers

- Learning Record Store (LRS) to collect/analyze response data
- Mobile App capable of generating/sending xAPI statements
- Funding for user licenses of technology:
  - Watershed (vendor for LRS) ~$6/user license
  - Xapiapps (Mobile for App) ~$10/user license
- Dedicated faculty and staff time to learn the technology, build the applications, train staff and students on log-in and other technical details

Facilitators

- Director (author FP) of Office of Health Professions Education (OHPE) has knowledge/experience with the technology used for assessment
- IPE → IPP is one of four focal areas for the OHPE
- OHPE has Program Coordinator committed to development and implementation
- This technology is applicable to numerous assessment workflows; gaining support from various stakeholders in addition to IPE stakeholders

Timeline Proposed

Assessment of Interprofessional Teamwork

- 0-3 months - identification of appropriate interprofessional care setting to study and recruitment of participants
- 3-6 months – completion of curriculum and direct observation of interprofessional teams
- 6-9 months – evaluation of data with provision of feedback to interprofessional teams that were assessed

Development and implementation Mobile App (SAW-IT)

- 0-1 month – secure funding source for technology license
- 1-3 months – train for and execute application build
- 3-6 months – pilot of SAW-IT tool

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