

# Defining Interprofessional Continuing Education

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>> **FOWLER:** Interprofessional continuing education is really reflective of healthcare. Healthcare is a team sport. And we really all work together in the clinical setting to provide care. And so, the idea is IPCE brings us all together to plan and provide the continuing education for all of us in improving patient outcomes.

>> **ZIMMERMAN:** Individual professions have been educated really almost in solitary confinement in silos. And many of the areas of errors in patient care practice occur in the spaces between these professions. And by working together, the quality of care can logically be improved.

>> **KUMPULA:** Interprofessional continuing education to me means the future. And it gives us an ability to leap forward. In other words, we don't have to overcome the problems of the past, the traditional paradigms we have with the medical model, disease model. We can go directly to the future to health wellness well-being and supporting improved patient outcomes.

>> **DAO:** In the classroom they sort of teach us about being a part of the healthcare team working with physicians, nurses, other pharmacists. But we don't really get to experience it until we go out into practice. And learning is life-long, so why not learn together with the ultimate goal being to treat the patient.

>> **RUITER:** It allows the evidence on the one hand to be put into challenge with an individual's practice based experience. And when you do that in the right way, magic happens. And so what you see is that you have the evidence, but you know what, we had Mrs. Smith here last week and we did it this way, and that practice based experience gels into what creates evidence based practice.

>> **MORGAN:** I think interprofessional education is fostering the respect of each individual's roles on the healthcare team.

>> **HECKLINGER:** It's not a one-stop shop. Instead, it is a series of people who all play very integral roles to reach those outcomes. And if those aren't met, then the patient feels unheard, untreated, or they're not getting the best care as well as clinically not having as positive outcomes.

>> **ANDERSON:** For me, interprofessional continuing education is the opportunity to find partners that have a shared interest. And an opportunity to build collaborations and learn from each other in a way that probably hasn't been explored in other educational opportunities that we've been a part of.

>> **THOMAS:** We have a physician in our system that I think explained it really well, actually. And he's one of our champions of this effort. He said, "When you have a basketball team, they don't practice separately and just come together on the day of the game. But in healthcare, that's

what we do." And so, interprofessional continuing education is really changing that.

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