

Interprofessional Education in Dental Hygiene Programs

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Objectives



Define interprofessional education (IPE).



Evaluate the need for IPE within the healthcare system.



Examine the future of dental hygiene roles.



Categorize the challenges in the implementation of IPE within dental hygiene programs.

Introduction

- Increased number of patients with complex medical issues
- Improve access to health care for pediatrics (Fried et al., 2017)
- Set hygienists up for future roles
- Current lack of IPE (Fried et al., 2017).
- Challenges to incorporating IPE
- Increasing dental hygiene scope of practice (Donoff and Daley, 2020).

Future Dental Hygiene Roles (Fried et al., 2017)

- Administrators
- Case managers
- Community-based settings
- Long term care facilities (LTCs)
- Hospitals (Battani, 2018).
- Public health practice
- Primary care

Current lack of IPE

- Associate degree time constraints
- Current accreditation standards
- Baccalaureate accommodation
- Content related to future health care delivery
- Recognition of hygiene as primary care provider
- Education on future technologies

Challenges to IPE

- Didactic time and experiential learning
- Networking (Bagge et al., 2021).
- Planned learning activities (Claiborne et al., 2021).
- Faculty development

Conclusions

- IPE can lead to better access to care for patients.
- IPE needs to be instituted in all dental hygiene schools.
- IPE can allow for the scope of practice of dental hygiene to increase.
- There are challenges for instituting IPE, but there are solutions as well.

Questions?

- How do you foresee the future of dental hygiene with the institution of IPE within dental hygiene schools?
- If you had to focus on one part of IPE, which would it be and why?
- How do you feel IPE could contribute to better access to care for patients?
- What are your thoughts on the future of IPE and healthcare?

References

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