

Patients' Role in Inter-professional Education in the Community



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Objective

To investigate whether providing inter-professional elderly service-learning activities to university students can improve their geriatric care knowledge and understanding on patients' needs.

Our Program

- Community Health And Medication-safety Promotion Inter-school Outreach Network (CU CHAMPION) is an inter-professional education (IPE) service-learning program at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- This poster illustrates patients' role in our community outreach project from October 2018 to September 2019.

Service-learning Training and Activities

We organized different kinds of health services for students to volunteer and interact with real patients.

	October 2018 – February 2019	March – September 2019
1. Home Visits	Provide care, home safety & health information for elderly patients	
2. Neighborhood Health Carnival	Health promotion event for patients in Sham Shui Po district	
3. Health Workshops	About medication safety, cardiovascular health, healthy diet, health voucher, fake news	
4. Health Check-up Services	Conduct health interview, conduct health check-up and assessment, provide drug safety and health topics interpretation	
Training Workshops	Conducted training workshop series for summer outreach students	
Summer Outreach	59 sessions for elderly patients were carried out in this period.	
Attendance*	444	3279

*Elderly Patients : 3023, Others (adults & children) : 700

Patients' Background & Impact on Students

Majority of our IPE service-learning subjects were elderly patients. They were the members of district elderly community centers or neighborhood elderly centers in Hong Kong. Most of them were female (80%) and their average age was 76.6 years old (SD=8.44). As the key learning facilitators in this project, they shared their lifestyle, medical history, and understanding of health literacy. These information were essential for students to examine and identify their physical, psychosocial, and knowledge needs.

Information from Patients

Impact on Students



Personal Background <ul style="list-style-type: none">Education LevelCareer Before RetirementLiving ConditionSelf Care / Need Carer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Be a good listener & learn the patients' stories <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Understand how patients' background could impact on their health outcomes
Health Condition <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chronic & Recent IllnessesChallenges in Health SystemDifficulties in Using Medications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observe patients' visible and invisible symptoms and health conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify patients' difficulties in all aspects
Lifestyle <ul style="list-style-type: none">Challenges in Daily LifeDietary HabitExercise RoutineSocial Engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance the skills to investigate and examine how patients' lifestyles correlate to their health condition
Health Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">Health VoucherMedication SafetyFake NewsDietary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use lay terms to conduct knowledge transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborate with, and learn new skills from peers of other disciplines

271 students volunteered within this period (Faculty of Medicine : 206, Food & Nutritional Sciences : 42, Social Work : 23)

197 joined Summer Outreach (93% of them volunteered since October 2018)

Results & Findings

In order to have a better understanding of IPE service and learning outcomes, we hosted training workshops for students and conducted the pre and post IPE and service evaluation within the summer outreach period which was carried out from March to September 2019.

Pre-Assessment (March to June)
• Response rate : 89.3%

Post Assessment (July to September)
• Response rate : 53.8%

The pre & post summer outreach assessments showed that student volunteers enjoyed and were satisfied with the multi-disciplinary setting in community outreach. Furthermore, they acknowledged that the outreach was helpful to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of patients' needs. Furthermore, we invited all summer outreach patients to conducted a non mandatory service feedback survey, and we received 758 viable surveys.

Patients' Feedbacks	Students' Key Improvements	Students' Feedback
88% Claimed the services were helpful to enhance health literacy	+17.2% Geriatric Care Knowledge (p<0.05)	87% This project was helpful to know more about inter professional collaboration
94% Understood the information provided by the students	+20.6% Health Literacy (p<0.001)	91.5% This project improved my understanding of geriatric care
	+28% Health Knowledge (p<0.05)	
	+67% Attitude toward IPE (p=<0.05)	

Conclusion

Patients were both service recipients and learning facilitators in our IPE project. Despite providing health service to the patients, students also improved their overall skills through interacting with the patients. Patients' involvement in interprofessional service-learning activities are crucial for the growth and education of pre-licensure health, food sciences, and social work practitioners.