

Development of a cross-campus interprofessional education curriculum in Malaysia for pharmacy and medicine degree students

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Abstract

The need for reforms in healthcare services and education, moving towards a more patient-centred, interdisciplinary approach, has recently been at the forefront of international thinking (1). The Iskandar region of Malaysia has been the focus of a major governmental development plan including the establishment of an education hub, Educity. Two UK universities have established branch campuses teaching healthcare in Educity; Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) and the University of Reading Malaysia (UoRM), teaching Medicine and Pharmacy respectively.

We are developing a collaborative cross-campus interprofessional education (IPE) curriculum. This year we delivered our first IPE event for year 1 pharmacy (n=11) and medicine students (n=20). The event consisted of interactive activities focussed on interprofessional roles, equality and diversity and the development of a professional identity. The session was evaluated using a mixed methods approach.

Both medicine and pharmacy students fed back that the session gave them a greater understanding of their role in a multi-disciplinary team, it prepared them for working relations with other health care professionals and that it gave them a positive perception of their profession. Free text feedback included 'Fresh perspective on healthcare from the pharmacy students' and 'I had the opportunity to learn more about different roles in a multidisciplinary team in the healthcare system, and understanding each other to provide better patient centred care'.

Our students from different professions learned to work with, from and about each other, which is seen as an effective mechanism to prepare professionals for teamwork in the clinical environment (2). Students reported a desire for more interprofessional education events in the curriculum and we are currently developing sessions for our year 2 students on antimicrobial stewardship and prescribing.

References

1. Kahaleh *et. al.* 2015. *Am J Pharm Educ.* **79(6)**: 78.
2. Reeves *et. al.* 2016. *Med Teach.* **38(7)**:656-68.