

Developing a Longitudinal Interprofessional Education Program using Telehealth for Pharmacy and Medical Students

Faculty and staff of the MCW – School of Pharmacy and the MCW – Central Wisconsin School of Medicine assessed the current collaboration between programs and the current topic delivery of telehealth within the respective curriculums. They identified an opportunity to introduce telehealth and promote the collaboration of pharmacy and medical students to provide patient-centered care using telehealth services. This collaboration entails the development of a program with four unique sessions that incorporate 45 pharmacy students and 22 medical students in their first years of their respective curriculum. The sessions include 1) Introduction to IPE and cultural competence, 2) Monthly online module discussion boards that examine current healthcare issues affecting our communities, 3) Introduction to telehealth services using an introductory patient case and 4) Continuation of telehealth services using a complex patient case. Both telehealth cases facilitate the remote collaboration of pharmacy and medical students through telehealth communication (videoconferencing) to assess a patient's profile via an electronic health record and recommend an evidence-based medication appropriate for that patient's presentation.

This longitudinal IPE Program has a structured plan to provide MCW pharmacy and MCW-CW medical students with the necessary training to address healthcare needs in the communities that they will serve, particularly those lacking direct access to healthcare services that may benefit from telehealth services. This program intentionally aligns with the primary focus of training pharmacy and medical students to become effective team members providing patient-centered health care.

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