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Newcastle-Sunderland Interprofessional Education Conference 2016

On the 11th March 2016 Newcastle University hosted the inaugural Interprofessional Education Conference for medical students from Newcastle University and pharmacy students from Sunderland University. The conference consisted of a series of stimulating and innovative interprofessional workshops focussing on key NHS priority areas, designed to strengthen learning around patient safety, antibiotic prescribing, surviving sepsis and safe interprofessional working practice. We aimed to allow students to practice clinical reasoning in a safe environment to build confidence and allow errors with no cost to a real patient. The participating students were all from Stage 2 of the courses and all tasks on the day were completed in interdisciplinary teams to allow students the opportunity to work collaboratively with students from other healthcare professions.

There were a number of objectives for the day, including to:

- Enable students from different health professions to experience working in a multidisciplinary team to solve clinical problems
- Enhance students’ communication skills with other professionals
- Develop knowledge of the safe use and prescription of antibiotics for a range of infectious diseases

352 students attended the conference, 157 medicine students and 195 pharmacy students. We used a range of educational tools to deliver 4 strands of work for the day:

1. **Keynote lectures**
   We started the day with short keynote presentations from senior NHS staff highlighting the importance of effective interprofessional working for the management of infection and patient safety. Chris Tiplady, Regional Advisor for Education in HEE North East opened with a talk encouraging students to challenge professional stereotypes and Neil Gammack, Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust Chief Pharmacist talked us through 7 steps to improving patient safety from a pharmacy perspective.

2. **Choosing the right antibiotic seminar**

   This was our flagship IPE seminar developed for Stage 2 students and originally piloted in 2012. We adapted the original pilot in light of feedback and to align the themes with the current cases in
Stage 2. The session was run as a stand-alone seminar in 2014-15 and was incorporated into the conference this year. Students worked in interdisciplinary teams to solve clinical problems around the selection and administration of antibiotics for meningitis and urinary tract infections.

3. Surviving sepsis
We ran a team based learning exercise using SimMan (a high-fidelity virtual patient simulator), exploring the management of acute sepsis. This session was piloted in 2015 and followed the case of a Mr Robert Smith. The use of this virtual patient allowed the students to apply their shared knowledge to a simulated real-life emergency scenario and see the effects their treatment had on the patient in real time.

4. Significant Event Audit
Significant Event Audit is regularly used in primary care multidisciplinary teams, usually in the form of a monthly meeting to discuss ‘significant events’. Students worked together to consider clinical complications leading to the development of acute sepsis in their patient, Mr Robert Smith (thus linking to the SimMan sepsis session above). They identified positive and negative aspects of care and appropriate changes in practice in response to the event.

The conference format was realised through the production of conference packs, stands from affiliated organisations and charities, lanyards, pre-reading material, an art exhibition produced on the conference theme by the students, lunch and refreshments. Jenny Ford (CAIPE Board member and Student Coordinator) attended along with two student reps, Linda Eyre and Stephen Garvey. Together they ran a stand for the duration of the day and observed the various sessions.
Other stands were run by the British Pharmacological Society, National Pharmacy Association, Pharmacists Defence Association and the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association (UKCPA). All conferences material were contained in cloth bags and we ran a student competition to designs the logo, with the winning logo printed on all bags.

Feedback from the conference has been extremely positive with 86% of students stating they were very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the conference overall (based on a 5 point likert scale). There appears to be an appetite for more interprofessional leaning events, as 69% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement ‘I would like to see an increase in interprofessional learning events in the curriculum’. We are currently analysing the evaluation data in preparation for publication and to inform the development of the conference for future years. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to CAIPE for supporting us in this venture.

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