

General Surgery Curriculum
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, General Surgeons Australia & New Zealand Association of General Surgeons

MODULE TITLE:	COLLABORATION 01-Jan-2009
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Module Rationale and Objectives	In today's multi-professional environment, the necessity for collaboration and integration is stronger than ever. As collaborators, surgeons work within a healthcare team to achieve optimal patient-centred care. Modern healthcare can include anything from a group of healthcare professionals working in partnership at one site, such as a ward team to extended teams with a variety of perspectives and skills, in several locations. At graduation the trainee will be able to: work in collaboration with members of interdisciplinary teams where appropriate effectively work with other health professionals to minimise inter-professional conflict and maximise patient care
Suggested Reading	There are no prescribed texts; trainees will be expected to keep abreast with current literature. Suggested reading: Available via the ProQuest database: R Faulkner and M Amodeo, 1999, 'Interdisciplinary teams in health care and human services settings: are they effective?', Health & Social Work, Silver Spring: vol. 24, no. 3, pg. 210: http://proquest.umi.com/pqdlink?did=44514688&sid=7&Fmt=4&clientId=57938&RQT=309&VName=PQD Oliver, D. Porock, D. Demris G. and Courtney, K., 2005, 'Patient and Family Involvement in Hospice Interdisciplinary Teams', Journal of Palliative Care, vol. 21, no. 4, pp.270-276: http://proquest.umi.com/pqdlink?did=967561041&Fmt=7&clientId=57938&RQT=309&VName=PQD Available online: Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care, 2005, 'Being a team player and showing leadership', National Patient Safety Education Framework, pp. 96-105: refer to requirements for Level 3: http://www.safetyandquality.org/framework0705.pdf Dixon, D. 2003, 'New Perspectives on Interdisciplinary Teams in Long-term Care', Caring for the Ages, American Medical Directors Association, vol. 4, no. 3: http://www.amdacmedirect.com/cmedirect/caring/march2003/leadership.htm Baker, D. Gustafson S. et al, 2005, 'Team Training in Health Care: A Review of Team Training Programs and a Look Toward the Future', Advances in Patient Safety: From Research to Implementation, vol. 1-4: http://www.air.org/teams/publications/mtt/adv_pub_safety.pdf G Crawford and S Price, 2003, 'Team working: palliative care as a model of interdisciplinary practice', Medical Journal of Australia, vol.179, pp. S32-34: http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/179_06_150903/cra10363_fm.html
Learning Opportunities and Methods	 Online Literature review
How this unit will be assessed	Half yearly Supervisor's reportsExamination

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MODULE OBJECTIVES	
Work in collaboration with members of	Collaborate with other professionals in the selection and use of various types of treatments assessing and weighing the indications and contraindications associated with each type:
interdisciplinary teams where	 recognise the need to solve problems beyond the scope of expertise and training of any one provider
appropriate	involve other professionals in diagnosis, treatment and management of patient care
	develop strong working relationships with others
	Demonstrate a respectful attitude towards other colleagues and members of inter-professional teams:
	 establish a commitment to engage in shared learning and dialogue
	 identify the ethical obligations of members of the interdisciplinary team in patient care
	 distinguish the legal obligations of members of the interdisciplinary team from own legal obligations
	 develop interdependence built on trust and commitment
	 set goals and deadlines for patient care collectively
	share resources, decision-making and responsibilities
	 develop a high level of communication skills
	 listen to and consider the input of other professionals, and acknowledge their point of view despite disagreement
	 integrate the patient and family into the interdisciplinary team structure and process where appropriate
	Develop a care plan for a patient in collaboration with members of an interdisciplinary team:
	 acknowledge collaborative practice arrangement improves the overall quality of health care services rendered
Effectively work with other health	 make strong commitment to accomplishing shared goals and outcomes
professionals to minimise inter-	 balance discipline expertise with collective shared knowledge
professional conflict and maximise patient care	 establish a sense of team responsibility for the wellbeing of the patient
	Recognise the need to refer patients to other professionals:
	 recognise other health care professionals have separate and important knowledge, technical skills, and perspectives
	 establish the most efficient use of all kinds and levels of health professionals through cooperation and collaboration
	 recognise discipline boundaries that promote interdependence
	 maintain close working relationships with other health professionals
	 recognise and act upon the limitation of own knowledge
	Initiate the resolution of misunderstandings or disputes:
	 identify barriers to collaborative practice
	 when disagreement occurs develop a new consensus on the best course of action
	 recognise any inequality of authority and responsibility in inter-professional, inter-physician, and student-teacher relationships
	 recognise disagreement can lead to a more complete inter-professional discussion of patient care
	 resolve conflict productively and solve problems by using appropriate techniques

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SELF ASSESSMENT

Working in collaboration:

Two questions to consider when working in collaboration with members of interdisciplinary teams:

- Who has the ultimate responsibility and/or authority?
- What contexts contribute to the definition of this?

Minimising inter-professional conflict and maximising patient care:

Consider the following case study:

You are part of a team doing sign-out rounds at the end of the day. You notice that most of the patients are referred to by their proper names and are they are dealt with in a respectful manner. There are two patients on the ward who have been particularly difficult to deal with and the team considers them to be demanding, non-compliant and to be taking up a tremendous amount of time compared to other patients. In discussion some of the members of the team refer to these patients in pejoratively as "the drunken Indian in room 618" and "the hysteric in room 625".

- What are your initial thoughts or reactions to the situation being described?
- What kind of a learning environment would such a situation create?
- What options could you pursue in responding to a situation like this?
- What do you think you would do if you were involved in such a situation?
- Have you ever encountered a situation like this and if so what did you do?

Source: CanMEDS Teaching the Professional Role. Available online via http://rcpsc.medical.org/publications/roles_e.html#casestudy

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