

The dimensions of interprofessional practice



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Burzotta, L. , & Noble, H. (2011). The dimensions of interprofessional practice. *British Journal of Nursing*, 20(5), 310-315. [Ebook library version]. Retrieved from <http://www.ebib.com.au/>. This article is about a prime role which the author experienced as a nurse while undertaking patient-centered care – interprofessional approach in clinical practice and using Gibb’s reflective cycle as a guideline in the process. The author went through the whole process while looking after a palliative female with a delicate situation like family crisis amidst of her condition and life expectancy.

The author, as a part of her role as a patient’s advocate and core figure, holistically initiated the multidisciplinary team (MDT) collaborative involvement in light of patient’s discharge wishes and in relation to the patient’s physical, medical, family, psychological and spiritual issues while actively involving the patient’s choice and maintain her dignity. The collaboration, in accordance to nurse’s scope of practice, involved referring the patient to various team as required like the medical and palliative care team, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, social worker, counselor and discharge coordinator.

The key skills used were effective communication with patient and family, staff, mentor and other members of MDT, proper documentation by all member of MDT, recognition of each member’s scope of practice and code of professional conduct. Then the shared decision making process played a vital role in arriving at a mutually agreed plan in patient’s best interest. During the whole process the author used reflective thinking at every stage to evaluate the outcome including the difficulties and barriers experienced and author’s feelings about the whole process.

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Hence overall, it highlighted the pivotal role played by a nurse in delivering optimum care by effective communication, problem-solving, collaborating with MDT while recognizing each member's vital role and scope in effective team work. Carrigan, C. (2008). Coming of age: the challenges of nursing an ageing population. *Australian Nursing Journal*, 16(6), 22-25. [Ebook library version]. Retrieved from <http://www.eplib.com.au/> The author has raised an important issue of nursing shortage in aged care sector with the emphasis on future projections in regards to increasing demand and lowering supply of workforce.

The article, based on Grant Thornton Aged Care Survey (2008), addresses the issues facing the nurses and aged care industry in context of government funding, adequacy of trained staff, disparity in wages and the differing viewpoint of involved parties including the commonwealth government. It is evident that there is a wide gap in demand and supply even in present and will continue to widen in future unless some steps are taken to address them including attracting the workforce through reducing the parity in wages and training.

ANF on one hand stresses on increasing the wages, even questioning the care providers with funding accountability and increasing the staffing levels and on the other hand the aged care providers like ACAA and CHA ended up passing the buck to the commonwealth scheme of funding through CAP, decreasing margins and increasing costs. Despite of all the funding incentives and reviews, it doesn't seem enough to address any of the issues in totality.

As ANF also points out increasing the numbers of high care residents will require more of trained nurses, nobody agrees on arriving at a proper ratio of staffing skill mix. The Commonwealth government was waiting on the full assessment of ACFI funding before making any further decisions. Though there was consensus about allowing nurse practitioners to lower the cost and improved care. Once again there was emphasis on finding avenues to bring in and retain the nurses through all parties teaming together for sake of our ageing population.