



AFMC

The Association of Faculties
of Medicine of Canada

Accreditation of Interprofessional Health Education

Interprofessional education (IPE) occurs when two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care. IPE develops competencies in group decision-making, teamwork, conflict resolution, shared leadership and other knowledge, attitudes and skills that prepare students for collaborative patient-centred practice.

In 2007, Health Canada contracted AFMC to plan and host a consultation with key stakeholders and experts to explore ways to integrate interprofessional education for collaborative patient-centred practice (IEPCP) into the accreditation processes for the various health professions. IEPCP across all health care sectors is considered to be a vital component of the pan-Canadian health human resource strategy. The objective of the project was to propose a strategy and work plan to explore and encourage the development of core joint principles for accrediting interprofessional education in health professional education programs at the pre-licensure level. The result was the initiative Accreditation of Interprofessional Health Education (AIPHE).

The Accreditation of Interprofessional Health Education initiative is a 20-month partnership of eight national organizations that accredit pre-licensure education for six health professions in Canada. The goal of this collaboration is to create and support the use of core joint principles and guidelines in formulating standards for interprofessional education.

The partnership, representing the disciplines of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, social work, nursing and medicine, will consult with a wide range of stakeholders to develop principles and guidelines for use in formulating standards for their organizations and promoting their use among other stakeholders. The partnership will also share knowledge about the value of interprofessional education and best practices in program accreditation review processes.

The main project activities include an environmental scan (comprised of a literature review, key stakeholder interviews and a background paper), two joint steering committee—advisory group meetings and a forum on accreditation of interprofessional education to begin dissemination of the finalized core joint principles and guidelines. Project documents and the website will be more widely promoted through meetings, conferences and partner networks. Products will include a background paper, joint core accreditation principles and guidelines, a resource on accreditation review processes (best practices) and a forum report.

This initiative is made possible by funding from Health Canada.

Centre for Advancement of Interprofessional Education, *Interprofessional Education: The Definition*, 2002, cited April 12, 2008, from <http://www.caipe.org.uk/about-us/defining-ipe> www.caipe.org.uk/about-us/defining-ipe.

