



# **Interprofessional practice: what does it mean to doctors?**

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**Emerging Health Policy Research  
Conference, Menzies Centre for Health  
Policy**

**11 August 2010**



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# Abbreviated terms



- IPP - interprofessional practice
- IPL - interprofessional learning
- IMG - international medical graduate
- AMG - Australian medical graduate
- JMO - Junior medical officer



# Introduction

- Doctors along with other health care personnel face increasing complexity:
  - in the organisation of health care, and
  - in treatments and service delivery.
- The multifactorial nature of health care systems in which they work vicariously affects patient outcomes.

# Introduction



- This raises concerns about quality of care, patient safety and outcomes.
- It highlights the importance of IPP - regarded as a cornerstone of quality and safety in delivering patient-centred care.



# What is IPP?

- Professionals working together (and learning together; interprofessional learning - IPL).
- Sharing expertise and knowledge.
- Collaborating for a common purpose, ie for patient-centred care, quality and safety and optimal outcomes.

# Why is IPP important?



Links between interprofessional practice and collaboration have come to attention through findings from inquiries into systemic failures in the management of patient safety.

# Study population



- AMGs and IMGs both needed in the medical workforce.
- IMGs make up 30% of the medical workforce in public hospitals.



# The study aim

- The purpose of this study was :
  - to examine whether doctors are equipped to engage in collaborative IPP.
  - to compare the 2 groups to determine their willingness and ability to engage in IPP.

# Research method



- Literature review.
- Four domains identified:
  - culture and acculturation;
  - communication and interaction;
  - collaboration and teams;
  - competency, quality and safety.

# Research method continued



- Survey questionnaire.
- Questionnaire administered to 30 doctors in three teaching hospitals.
- Half were AMGs and half were IMGs from 11 countries.
- Thematic analysis was conducted on the data.

# Results: culture and acculturation



- Cultural issues impinge on the uptake of IPP.
- Hospital culture important to integration and therefore IPP.
- Lack of support.
- Understanding of the health care system.

## Results: communication and interaction



- Communication confirmed as important to patient care.
- Roles of other health professionals not well understood.
- Respect between health professionals.

# Results: collaboration and teams



- Agreement that collaborative effort important.
- Collaborative approach and quality and safety.
- More IMGs than AMGs felt doctors were the most important members of the health care team.

# Results: competency, quality and safety



- Confidence in clinical ability.
- Technical competencies.
- Improvement in competencies.
- Legal responsibilities.

# Policy implications



- For doctors:
  - Recognition of diversity.
  - The need for more support.
  - Understanding of the health care system and
  - Understanding of the roles of other health professionals.
- For hospitals:
  - greater awareness of the culture required for doctors to practice interprofessionally.



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