

- Volunteering as a peer supporter if this program exists in your organization.
- Reviewing other mental health resources available through the American Nurses Association website.

In conclusion, nurses face a higher risk of suicide compared to the general public, and higher than other healthcare professionals. Nevertheless, there are measures we can take to address known workplace risks. Nurses can play an active role by advocating

for improved organizational policies and credentialing processes. Additionally, leaders can take action by implementing proven methods for screening for mental health conditions, ensuring that nurses can seek care without fear of jeopardizing their careers. By working together, we can create a supportive environment that prioritizes the well-being of nurses and addresses this critical issue.

A gap analysis using the toolkit created by the American Hospital Association

(2023) can reveal opportunities for suicide prevention that may be helpful at the local level. Advocacy by each of us is needed to change licensure and discipline questions at the state level. National organizations have already agreed that change is needed and given us a roadmap for success. Now is the time for each of us to act to save lives. ■

References online:
<https://bit.ly/3T2ygwF>

Using Simulation to Improve Interdisciplinary Collaboration

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As a healthcare workforce member, each nurse is part of a collaborative team of professionals caring for patients. According to Jensen (2015), “More than 250 healthcare professions exist” (p. 48). Each profession has a different scope of practice that contributes to the care of patients. All of these team members comprise a multidisciplinary team (MDT). Taberna et al. (2020) define the core function of an MDT as “bringing together a group of healthcare professionals from different fields to determine patients’ treatment plans” (p. 1). The benefits of a collaborative MDT include the removal of silos that different healthcare professions historically work within (Epstein, 2014). Removing these silos can allow effective collaboration to occur.

Enhancing healthcare collaboration is recognized as a critical strategy for healthcare improvement. The benefits

of collaboration in healthcare have been shown to improve patient outcomes through the ability to reduce errors and provide expedited, coordinated care (Oandasan et al., 2006). Additionally, improved teamwork has also been shown to provide benefits to healthcare providers, including reducing extra work and increasing job satisfaction (Bosch & Mansell, 2015). For these reasons, the incorporation of strategies that help build a collaborative mindset should be considered within nursing education. Interprofessional education (IPE) is one technique that can help improve collaboration competencies such as teamwork, communication, and understanding of team members’ roles.

IPE is a technique whereby learners from several healthcare professions learn and work together (Thistlethwaite & Moran, 2010). IPE can positively impact teamwork in daily healthcare practice (Speakman, 2015) and is recommended for training programs for healthcare professionals (Wagner et al., 2011; Buring et al., 2009). Integrating IPE into nursing education provides learners with a knowledge of the scope of practice and professional culture of other practitioners (Baker et al., 2010). Other ben-

efits include developing techniques for effective teamwork and mutual respect (Hamilton, 2011) and navigating power differentials as required for collaborative decision-making (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2015).

Providing simulated experiences for nurses that include other health disciplines is a learning strategy that can be used for conducting IPE (Alfes et al., 2018). Simulation creates a situation or environment to allow learners to experience a representation of an actual event for practice, learning, evaluation, testing, or to gain an understanding of skills or actions (Lioce et al., 2020). Simulations that include interprofessional education (Sim-IPE) allow learners to approach patient care collaboratively and develop skills for interprofessional practice and teamwork. Also, it can provide insight into the roles and responsibilities of the various disciplines within healthcare (Rossler et al., 2021).

Sim-IPE is quickly becoming the gold standard for increasing collaboration among the MDT (Foronda et al., 2016). Tiley and colleagues (2021) studied the impact of the use of Sim-IPE. Collaborative simulations that took place over two

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