

Teaching Students to Work in an Interdisciplinary Team

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Background:

The SAFE (Senior Awareness and Fall Education) - Central Valley Coalition was established in 2011 to reduce falls among older adults. A very important component to SAFE is our interdisciplinary or interprofessional fall prevention management program. This program not only benefits seniors that may be at risk for falls, but provides a venue to promote and prepare health professional students for team delivery of care that will transform patient-centered and community oriented health care systems. Interprofessional education (IPE) and interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) is essential in the education of future health care workers. We have now integrated Nursing, Physical Therapy and Kinesiology students from Fresno State with Pharmacy students at the California Health Science University (CHSU) in our program. The *purpose* of this project was to develop materials for a 3 hour student orientation that would better prepare both faculty and students to work as an interdisciplinary team during our comprehensive balance screenings.

Results:

Students from 4 disciplines worked together to develop the following materials: clear delineation of each student's role during the comprehensive assessment; pre/post survey to assess the benefits of IPE; educational video on fall prevention and risk factors; video of students working as a team during the comprehensive balance screening to emphasize team interaction; and a client case to demonstrate the importance of interprofessional management of fall risk. These materials will be used during our fall 2016 orientation with Pharmacy, Nursing, Kinesiology and Physical

Therapy faculty and students in preparation for our quarterly comprehensive balance screenings that semester.

Future:

This is an ongoing program that serves our seniors in the central valley and our students in the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS). Our hope is that other disciplines within the college will also join, as they too have important roles in the prevention of falls for seniors in the central valley. Not only are those students that participate in this program helping to address a growing public health issue, but are learning the importance of IPE/IPCP.