DNP Essential VI-Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient
and Population Health Outcomes

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) sixth foundational competency for Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) seems to be self-explanatory. As advanced practice nurses, we collaborate with many people to improve patient care and population health. We have collaborated with each other in Blackboard discussions the past ten months. These collaborations have offered insight to improve clinical, educational, leadership, scholarship, and communication practices. According to the AACN (2006), “DNP graduates have preparation in methods of effective team leadership and are prepared to play a central role in establishing interprofessional teams, participating in the work of the team, and assuming leadership of the team when appropriate” (AACN, 2006, p. 14).

APNs are key stakeholders and often the voice of reason in the seats at the table (in my opinion.) We all have stakeholders with whom we collaborate on a regular basis to improve patient care and improve the healthcare delivery system. These collaborations do not always produce the results we desire, though we do our best with the skill set we have to maintain physical, mental, and organizational health in patients and systems we must deal with.

My stakeholders are: my collaborating physicians, licensed independent social workers and two other APNs in my office, our office staff, pharmacies and pharmacists, pharmaceutical representatives, insurance companies, employers and employee assistance staff, family members, laboratory services, primary care APNs, physicians and other specialty providers, hospital psychiatric units and intensive outpatient programs, community resources like: National Alliance for Mentally Ill, Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous, support groups for cancer survivors, eating disorders, survivors of childhood abuse, the Cancer Wellness Community, American Cancer Society, Leukemia Lymphoma Society, community mental health
service agencies and staff, online clinical resources like Epocrates online, the American Psychiatric Nurses’ Association, American Psychiatric Association, the Oncology Nursing Society national organization and local chapter, American Psychosocial Oncology Society, and many more including, our NKU DNP colleagues and faculty.

I found a five minute You Tube video that clearly illustrates interprofessional collaboration on a complex case, and how nurses lead the way. The video was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; perhaps we could all make videos about our interprofessional teams in the future. I experienced excellent collaboration processes in teams I worked with at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center Latency Age Psychiatric Unit, the Christ Hospital Inpatient Psychiatry Unit, Emerson A. North Hospital Psychiatric and Chemical Dependency Units, Middletown Regional Hospital Adolescent and Adult Psychiatric Units, Butler County Mental Health Services, The Jewish Hospital Bone Marrow Transplant Program, and University of Cincinnati Central Clinic. All of these organizations have their communication issues, but in each one I was able to work with and be part of the nursing leadership team who exemplified leadership in collaboration. Though I work in a much smaller practice now, I am happy with my smaller scale team collaboration and respect I receive as an APN and leader.

References

Children’s Hospital of Southeast Florida. (2013). *Collaboration across professions improves...*
patient outcomes. Retrieved from: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ3cKu8XHA