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Impact of Interprofessional Simulation on Teamwork Performance Amongst Medical and Nursing Students at the University of Algarve

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Effective collaboration and communication within interprofessional teams is critical for quality and safety in healthcare delivery. Teams that communicate effectively and provide mutual support have reduced potential for error, resulting in improved clinical performance. In 2019, the University of Algarve created an innovative interprofessional education program, designed to train all final-year medical and nursing students in teamwork skills. The program comprises a theoretical workshop, based on the principles of the TeamSTEPPS® curriculum, followed by interprofessional simulation training. In this study we assessed the impact of interprofessional simulation on teamwork performance.

Aim: To evaluate the effectiveness of interprofessional simulation in improving teamwork performance amongst final-year medical and nursing students exposed to a teamwork education program.

Methods: We conducted a prospective study of 135 final-year medical and nursing students participating in the interprofessional education program of the University of Algarve medical and nursing schools from 2020-22. Participants were asked to evaluate teamwork performance during interprofessional simulation sessions using the Mayo High Performance Teamwork Scale (MHPTS). Performance was analysed over the course of 3 simulation scenarios to determine the impact of interprofessional simulation training on improving teamwork performance.

Results: Significant improvements in teamwork performance were noted over the course of 3 simulation scenarios. In particular, "leader recognition", "team roles", "active team participation", "active communication" and "communication feedback" all showed significant improvements. Delayed assessment, at 3 months, showed that improvements in teamwork performance were retained and could be further enhanced through additional simulation training.

Discussion/Conclusion: Interprofessional simulation improves teamwork performance amongst final-year nursing and medical students exposed to an interprofessional teamwork training curriculum. Whenever possible, interprofessional simulation training should be integrated into teamwork training programs to enhance learning and retention of teamwork principles.