



The need to integrate Public Health courses in Health Professions curriculum



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Letter to Editor

Healthcare delivery is moving towards a more integrated and interprofessional approach. Health professionals, including pharmacists will need to work as part of a team to deliver optimal care to patients. As such, it is imperative that health professionals are trained in the aspect of interprofessional education. One of the aspects of interprofessional education is advocacy for public health principles. Without a proper understanding of public health concepts, it is difficult for health professionals to deliver the care necessary for the patient's long term well-being. This begs the question, how much of public health is being taught in current medical, dental, nursing, and pharmacy curriculum?

While a cursory glance at available health professions curriculum reveals that public health courses and principles are part of the coursework, it is yet to be considered relevant or important as the core courses. The public health courses are in fact the conduit by which different health professionals can be educated on a common platform. These courses form the glue that provides interprofessional education opportunities to health professionals.

There should be a conscious effort made by the different health disciplines to integrate more public health concepts and principles into their curriculum and use it as an opportunity to provide interprofessional education.



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