

Interprofessional OSCE experience in health science education: A pilot study

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Introduction

Interprofessional education is essential for collaborative care.¹ Within health science education, the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is used to observe and assess hands on skills.² Typically, standardized patients are used for the patients during these activities.³ Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Des Moines University Physician Assistant (PA) program was forced to shift from use of contracted standardized patients to students.⁴ With a unique opportunity at hand, the PA program utilized students from the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program as standardized patients.

The purpose of this pilot study is to assess physical therapy and physician assistant students' attitudes of interprofessional teamwork and recall of their knowledge of the other professions roles while serving as the standardized patient. This study is important because by utilizing other health care students for the standardized patients, this provides an opportunity for students to learn through the experience of being the patient and the services other healthcare providers can provide to better prepare the learner for clinical placement.⁵



<https://geomedu.edu/ge/?p=1828&lang=en>

Methods

- This pilot study will occur in two phases.
 - The first phase consisted of volunteer Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students serving as standardized patients for an Objective Structured Clinical Examination for the Physician Assistant Program (PA). (June 2021)
- The second phase of the study will occur in September 2021 with volunteer PA students serving as standardized patients for the DPT program.
- The volunteer students had previously completed an introductory training on interprofessional education and teamwork. Prior to this encounter student volunteers received case prep work.
- Post event the students were given a survey via Qualtrics to assess knowledge and attitudes regarding the experience and teamwork and change in knowledge regarding the each other's professions.
- The five survey questions were developed with consensus from DPT and PA faculty and revised as needed. (see Figure 2)

Results

- Eighteen DPT students volunteered to serve as a standardized patient with the PA OSCE.
- Seventeen students filled out the questionnaire
- Gender and age are in Figure 1
- Responses for survey questions are in Figure 2
 - 94.12 % of the student responded somewhat agree to strongly agree for all of the survey items.
 - 5.88% (n=1) of the students responded disagree to strongly disagree for the survey questions
- Additional comments:
 - ...I will recommend a PA as a primary care provider to people.
 - It was a great learning experience overall
 - It was beneficial to be a patient to learn from the PA students as well as highlight their strengths and how they play a crucial role in the healthcare team.

Figure 1

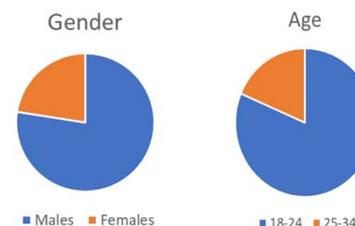
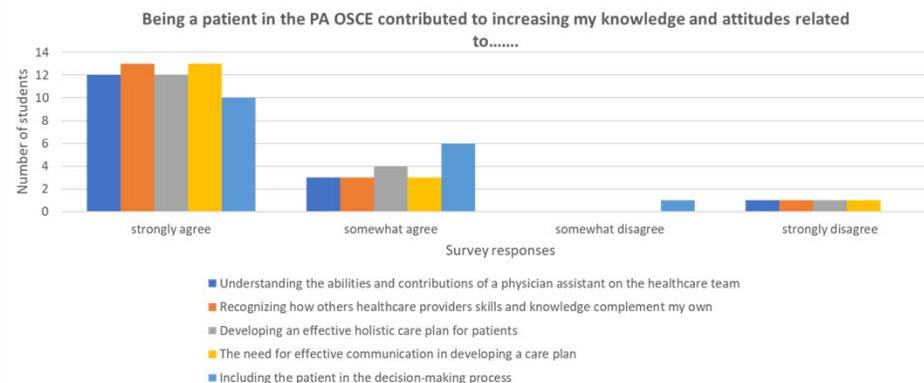


Figure 2



Conclusion

Due to the positive response in the increase in awareness of roles and responsibilities of the other healthcare profession, the participation of serving as a standardized patient for another health professions OSCE will be a required experience in the next year for both cohorts.

The use of student health science volunteers shortened training time.

With COVID 19 restrictions in place allowed a hands-on assessment to occur.

This activity also offers opportunities to make recommendations for future interprofessional experiences.

Will need to investigate the long-term effects of this shared experience.

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