Interprofessional Learning Experience for Nursing and Pharmacy Students
**Interprofessional Team Working**

This is essential to provide quality patient care. You will have found that when planning patient care, you will be working with many different health care professionals. While on placement you should look for learning opportunities to develop this type of working.

**What is Interprofessional Learning?**

‘Occasions when two or more professionals learn with, from and about one another to facilitate collaboration in practice’

CAIPE, (1997)
What are the benefits of Interprofessional Working and Learning?

- Increasing your knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of other professionals
- Building up stronger Interprofessional relations leading to improved Interprofessional team working
- Developing a deeper and broader understanding of your patients condition, care and management
- Improving patient management by appropriate referral and reduced duplication of care
- Develop a broader understanding of how the NHS works

This type of learning is aimed to improve your academic learning, your clinical learning and your working practice. To consolidate this learning, you are strongly advised to write a reflective piece for your portfolio.
Ways that Students can gain interprofessional Learning in Practice.

1. Working with and learning from students from different professions in the clinical area.

2. Working with and learning from different qualified professionals in the clinical area.

This learning can also be developed through visiting other agencies and attending relevant meetings
Reflection is always important following these sessions to consolidate learning.

Your Interprofessional learning experience should always be

- Student Led
- Patient Centred
- Facilitated

This Initiative is one way of you gaining Interprofessional learning and practicing your mentor skills.

Further Reading
Kelley et al. (2009) Using interprofessional learning in practice to improve multidisciplinary working. *Nursing Times* 105 (43)

Supporting Pharmacy Students

In this Clinical area there is an opportunity to plan, organise and take part in Interprofessional Learning for a third year Pharmacy student.

Your clinical area has already agreed to support a pharmacy student for a day’s visit and with your mentors support you will plan their day using their general objectives (next page). You should make a programme to meet these using the information you have gained about your placement’s speciality and health professionals working within it.

Your mentor will know when the Pharmacy student will be visiting and just before this she/he will receive the student’s e-mail. You should then be able to contact this student to tell her/him a little about the ward, confirm the details of her/his visit, their starting times, and answer any questions or worries they may have. The student should also have been given a dress code, make sure they understand the importance of this.
The general insight visit objectives for Pharmacy students are:-

1. To appreciate the roles of a variety of professionals and providers in patient care
2. To apply principles of gaining consent and respecting confidentiality in practice
3. To demonstrate professional attitude e.g. dress, time-keeping etc.
4. To demonstrate engagement with placement activities e.g. interest, knowledge, response to questions
5. To demonstrate appropriate communication with patients e.g. appropriate introduction, seeking and gaining consent, effective communication
6. To critically reflect upon learning and experience gained through the placement visits
7. To evaluate a patient’s treatment in the light of national guidelines
**Pharmacy students suggested activities**

When planning the Pharmacy students visit remember these students have had no moving and handling training and thus should only observe care.

They will also need a short introduction to simple infection control and any other do and don’ts that are important in your area.

**How to plan the visit day**

- Identify 2-3 patients for them so they can find out about the patient’s medical and social problems
- Give them time to talk to these patients
- Let them look at their medical & nursing notes
- They should look at their drug chart
- Attend a ward round for those patients
- Attend a nursing handover for those patients
- Go on a drug round including these patients
- Where possible ask other professionals working in the area to speak to the students about their roles.

Don’t forget to talk to them yourself and find out things like: - what their role is, how they have prepared for it, had they any preconceived idea about your role, and have they changed these.
At the end of the experience take time to reflect on what has been learned by you and the pharmacy student. Accompanying this booklet is an ‘Evidence of Interprofessional Learning in Practice’ which will help you both to reflect on and document this.