

Intern Pharmacist Supervision by Medical Consultant: A Pilot Study on Interprofessional Practice

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BACKGROUND

- ❑ The SA Pharmacy Intern training program facilitates the development of intern pharmacists in fundamental areas of both clinical and dispensary fields in the hospital setting, through a structured year-long program.
- ❑ Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) currently provide a framework for self-reflection and effective feedback in these development activities and are mapped to meet the National Competency Standards for Pharmacists in Australia².
- ❑ Interprofessional practice; the collaboration between health professionals of different professional backgrounds^{1,2,3}; is a mandatory field in the National Competency Standards for Pharmacists² and is fundamental in establishing an effective, integrated workforce that is better positioned to provide quality healthcare services and improved health outcomes^{1,3}.
- ❑ There is currently a lack of structured development opportunities in the area of effective interprofessional communication as part of the SA Pharmacy Intern training program and an EPA has not been specifically developed to provide guidance in this area of professional practice.

AIM

To evaluate the perceived impact of a new model of interdisciplinary practice in the context of:

- ❑ Delegation of the Intern pharmacist's daily supervision to a consultant in a medical team.
- ❑ Embedding the pharmacy Intern into the medical team through daily participation in medical ward rounds.
- ❑ Interdisciplinary use of the EPA for feedback to determine acceptability of this tool by other professions, and to inform the future development of a 'ward round' EPA to support skill development in this setting.

METHODS

PILOT IMPLEMENTATION

- ❑ For a two-week period in November 2019, an intern pharmacist participated in consultant led ward rounds as part of the General Medicine team at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, whereby supervision of the intern was delegated to the medical consultant.
- ❑ Activities on ward rounds involved pharmacy related duties; documenting and reconciling medication histories, clinical review of medication management, discharge facilitation and patient counselling.

METHODS

Qualitative feedback regarding the perceived impact of the multidisciplinary pilot was obtained through various methods including:

- ❑ Completion of surveys using the 'Interdisciplinary Education Perception Scale'⁴ pre and post pilot by the intern pharmacist and General Medicine team.
- ❑ Written reflections from the intern pharmacist prior and post the pilot.
- ❑ Use of EPA by the medical consultant to facilitate feedback.
- ❑ Face to face interviews with the intern pharmacist and General Medicine team at the conclusion of the pilot.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

- ❑ Comparisons between pre and post survey evaluations using the 'Interdisciplinary Education Perception Scale'⁴ indicated notable improvements in perceived areas of understanding and appreciation of interdisciplinary roles between pharmacy and medical professions.
- ❑ The interprofessional practice model provided the intern pharmacist with a better understanding of patients' clinical situation, planned investigations and therapeutic goals; key factors which affect drug therapy, drug monitoring and discharge planning.
- ❑ The presence of the intern pharmacist at the point of prescribing also allowed for more efficient communication and streamlined resolution of medication related issues, facilitating efficient discharges.

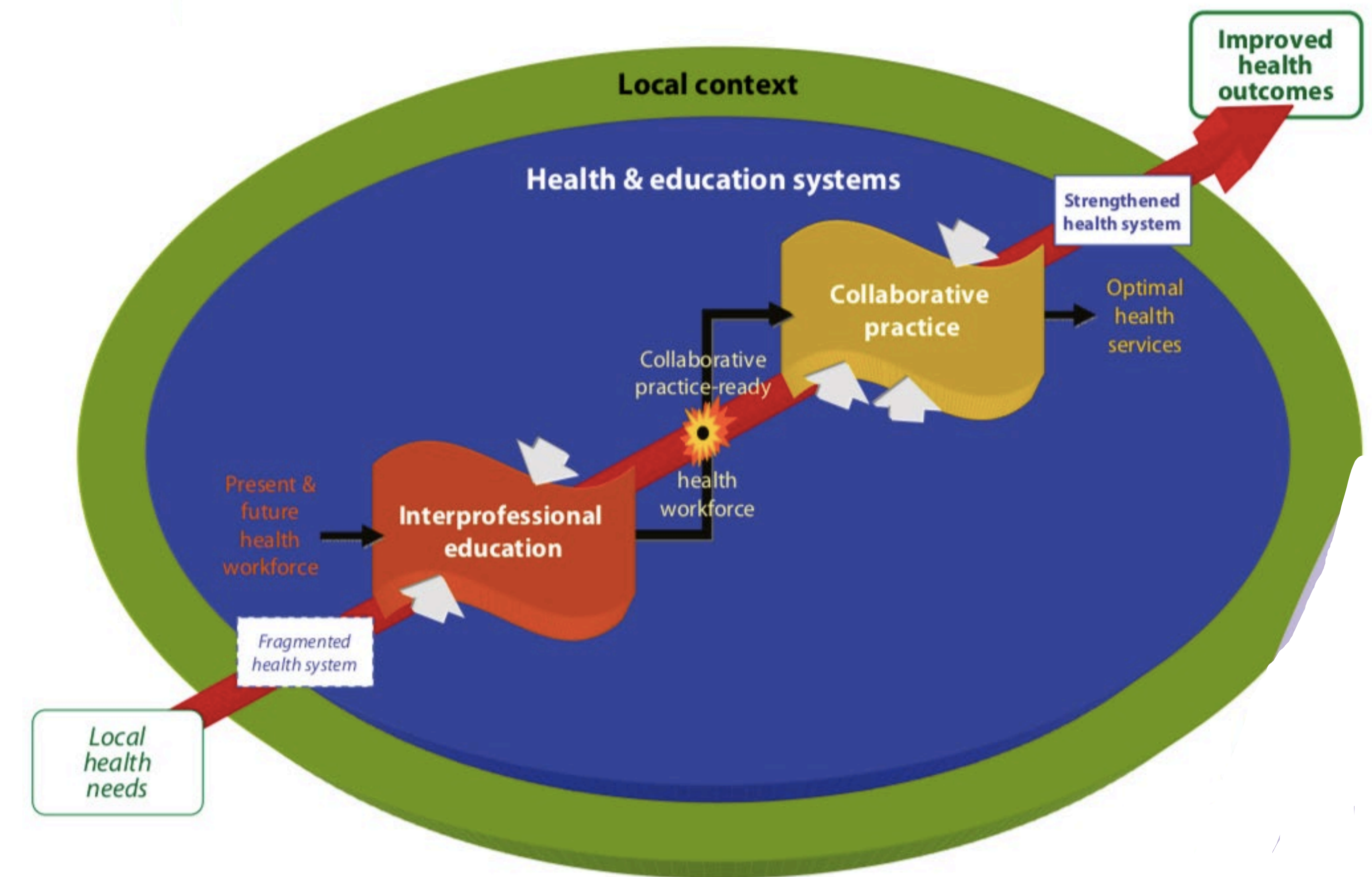


Figure 1: World Health Organization (WHO) Framework for Interprofessional Education (2010)⁴

CONCLUSION & IMPACT ON PRACTICE

- ❑ Enhanced interdisciplinary collaboration between the pharmacy and medical professions, facilitated by pharmacy Intern supervision by a medical consultant in the context of ward round attendance, may offer an effective model for not only increased interdisciplinary communication and understanding, but enhanced opportunities for improved patient care through timely optimisation of medication management.

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