Interprofessional training ward in pediatrics: learn and work together to overcome your limits

The cooperation between different health care professionals is a necessity in the clinical care of patients - but so far in Germany there is not enough interprofessional education of clinical professional groups. Funded as part of the Robert Bosch Foundation’s „Operation Team“ the interprofessional training ward in pediatrics will link interprofessional and practical training. Final year medical students and final year trainees/students in pediatric nursing will learn and work situation-based and context-orientated together under the guidance and supervision of experienced professionals from medicine and nursing, on a general pediatric (training) ward. This enables the participants to experience and learn all necessary competencies and skills for an interprofessional, patient-orientated practical patient care.

With the implementation of this project we want to contribute to increase safety in patient care, to increase the effectiveness and efficiency in clinical care and additionally to strengthen the job satisfaction of professional groups involved.

Project partners:
- Medical Center – University of Freiburg, Center for Pediatrics, Department of general pediatrics, adolescent medicine and neonatology, Medical Center, University of Freiburg, Germany.
- RKK Hospital St. Josefskrankenhaus Freiburg, Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology „St. Hedwig“, Ward 3H „Schatzinsel“ (treasure island), Freiburg, Germany.
- Health and Child Nursing School „St. Hedwig“ at RKK Hospital St. Josefskrankenhaus Freiburg, Germany.

Target groups:
Final year medical students in their „practical year“ (PJ) with electives in pediatrics at the Center for Pediatrics (ZKJ) Freiburg and the St. Josefskrankenhaus (SJ) Freiburg and trainees/students of pediatric nursing (GKKP) in their 3rd year of training at SJ. The concept includes a transferable basic module "Interprofessional Education Station (IPA)", which can also be adapted for other areas of clinical care and used in adapted form for more medical students and nursing trainees/students.

Project aims:
With the implementation of this project, we plan to contribute to increasing both patient safety as well as effectiveness and efficiency in clinical care and to strengthen the work satisfaction of the participating professional groups. Participation in the project will contribute to the reduction of hierarchical and purely monoprofessional ideas and facilitate the future entry into work for both professional groups.
**Project plan:**
The interprofessional teaching ward will be created within the department of pediatrics of the SJK. In the sense of "work-based learning" (Costley, 2007, Lester, 2010), the PJ students and GKKP trainees/students will work mostly independently and take over the care of patients from age two years to adolescence with typical general pediatric conditions. They are supported and supervised by a pediatrician and a nursing specialist trained as practical educator. Reflections and feedback sessions are held regularly in order to timely recognize and deal with problems occurring, as well as to sustain the success of the GKKP trainees/students and PJ students (Olbrich, 2009). In addition to the purely professional training, PJ students and GKKP trainees/trainees are trained and accompanied in interprofessional work right from the start. Interprofessional teams of two medical students and two nursing trainees/students work on the wards for four weeks, each term two interprofessional groups take part in the interprofessional training ward. The two teams of a term get an overview of the basics of interprofessional cooperation and communication, roles and stereotypes, values and ethical competences, professional roles and responsibilities, team and teamwork, patient safety and error culture, cultural sensibility in dealing with patients and colleagues, and for the continuous reflection of their learning process.

A continuation of the interprofessional training ward is ensured by already existing cooperation structures between the project partners, as well as between the office of student affairs, medical faculty, Medical Center – University of Freiburg and the ZKJ Freiburg. The curricular integration into the PJ and GKKP education is possible by the participation of the teaching staff of the ZKJ and the management of the nursing schools of the SJK.

**Evaluation:**
The teaching project is evaluated continuously by the participants both quantitatively (questionnaires) and qualitatively (free text questions, structured oral feedback, online learning diary) and adapted as necessary. Patient satisfaction is measured using standardized patient questionnaires. The GKKP trainees/students and PJ students are asked about the quality of their training, including interprofessional training as well as on work/training satisfaction before starting and after completing their four-week assignment at the interprofessional training ward. A survey of the nursing and medical staff involved is also conducted.

**Project period:**
01. January 2017 until 31. December 2019

**Project team:**
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References: