

# Culturally Congruent Practice: Understanding the Link between Interprofessional Teamwork and Communication Skills

Cali-Ryan Collin, PhD, LICSW<sup>1</sup>; Rebekah Halmo, LCSW<sup>1</sup>; Deborah Johnson, BS<sup>1</sup>; Shalane McNally, MSW<sup>1</sup>; Tamara Cadet, PhD, MPH, LICSW<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Simmons School of Social Work, Boston, MA 02115, USA <sup>2</sup>Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA 02115

## Background

- Skill development in team-based health care and the ability to work interprofessionally to provide culturally congruent care improves patient outcomes.
- Recent literature on the use of simulation in social work and nursing education focuses on interprofessional practice, particularly within healthcare settings.
- Evidence suggests that the inclusion of simulation experiences in the classroom enhances skill development among both social work and nursing students.
- Interprofessional simulation experiences increase students’ interprofessional communication skills and preparedness for future interprofessional experiences.
- There is a gap in the literature between culturally congruent practice behaviors and interprofessional skills.

## Purpose

Explore the correlation between 1.) culturally congruent practice behaviors and 2.) interprofessional communication and teamwork in an interprofessional healthcare simulation.

## Simulation Experience

The simulated patient was a 50-year old man presenting to primary care in a rural area for complications related to alcohol use and hepatitis c. The simulation included a nurse practitioner visit, followed by a warm hand-off from nurse practitioner to social worker, and finally a social work visit.

## Methods

### Participants:

Demographics (N=79)	
<i>Profession</i>	Social Work (n=28) Nursing (n=51)
<i>Gender</i>	87% Female
<i>Ethnicity</i>	92% Non-Hispanic
<i>Race</i>	67% White

\*all students were in their final year of their respective program

### Measures:

#### *Cultural Competence Clinical Evaluation Tool - Student Version (CCCET-SV)*

- 83-item measure
- 10-point Likert scale where 1 indicates ‘not at all’ and 10 indicates ‘to a great extent’.
- Three embedded scales: 1. culturally specific care; 2. cultural assessment; and 3. culturally sensitive and professionally appropriate attitudes, values, and beliefs.

#### *Performance Assessment Communication and Teamwork (PACT)*

- 100-item measure
- 5-point Likert scale
- Six subscales were used: 1. skills, 2. team structure, 3. leadership, 4. situation monitoring, 5. mutual support, and 6. communication.

### Analysis:

- Descriptive and correlation analysis were conducted using Pearson’s correlation coefficient
- Culturally congruent practice behaviors were assessed overall and in the three subscales.
- Interprofessional teamwork and communication skills were assessed overall and in six subscales.

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## Results

Correlation Between Interprofessional Skills and Culturally Congruent Practice Behaviors													
Variable	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. CCCET Total	79	4.51	1.73	-									
2. CCCET Sub 1	79	3.96	1.64	.73**	-								
3. CCCET Sub 2	79	3.20	1.86	.85**	.60**	-							
4. CCCET Sub 3	79	6.21	2.67	.88**	.41**	.56**	-						
5. PACT Sub 1	83	4.03	.49	.07	-.03	-.02	.16	-					
6. PACT Sub 2	83	4.39	.43	.20	-.04	.26*	.22	.18	-				
7. PACT Sub 3	83	4.61	.41	.27*	.00	.28*	.30**	.19	.67**	-			
8. PACT Sub 4	83	4.42	.44	.33**	.09	.23	.39	.25	.64**	.66**	-		
9. PACT Sub 5	83	4.37	.55	.22	.04	.27*	.20	.14	.37**	.50**	.38**	-	
10. PACT Sub 6	83	4.38	.39	.36**	.34**	.37**	.24*	.17	.44**	.49**	.47**	.46**	-

\**p*<.05, \*\**p*<.01

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## Discussion

- Results suggest a correlation between interprofessional skills and culturally congruent practice behaviors.
- There was a significant linear relationship between social work and family nurse practitioner students’ interprofessional teamwork and communication skills and their use of culturally congruent practice behaviors during simulated practice.
- These skills and behaviors can help to contribute to the reduction of health disparities and improved patient outcomes.
- Broad incorporation of interprofessional simulation experiences in social work and other health professions curricula is supported.

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