

Clerkship IPE Assignment
Shadowing an Allied Health Care Professional

Objective: The clerk will gain insight into the role, knowledge and skills of an allied health discipline while comparing insights with their own disciplinary role, knowledge, and skills.

Assignment:

A. The clerk will be expected to do **two assignments**:

- (i) Spend a half day shadowing a nurse;
- (ii) Spend a half day shadowing one other health care professional. Select a health discipline listed on the Office of Interprofessional Education and Research web-site: www.ipe.uwo.ca under the 'Professionals in Teams' section.

B. For each shadowing experience, complete a report based on consideration of the following questions:

1. What specialized knowledge base and skills does the practitioner you observed possess? How does this knowledge and skill-base influence the way this practitioner provides patient care?
2. Now that you know about the practitioner's unique skills and knowledge, would this knowledge influence your decision-making if this practitioner were to come to you with a concern about a patient? Please justify your answer, based on what you have learned from the shadowing experience.
3. How can you, as a physician, work with this type of professional to enhance patient care and ensure patient safety?
4. Can you see any potential for conflict between this professional, their practice and the patient-care team? How can you work effectively with such a professional in the future to prevent conflict regarding patient care?
5. How would this practitioner's role be different in a different setting?
6. Ask the professional what their one take-home message to the physicians of tomorrow might be, and reflect on what it means for you.

C. Deadlines: First Essay: December 19, 2014 Second Essay: April 29, 2015

Practical Notes:

1. The clerk should consider choosing to do the observership with a health care professional who is actively participating in the care of a patient with whom the clerk is familiar.
2. The clerkship Rotation Directors are aware of this objective.
3. Clerks are responsible for completing the report outside of service hours.
4. The allied health care professionals may not be aware of this assignment. They may be given a copy of a letter explaining the assignment which is available on the Year 3 webpage.
5. The completed essays are to be submitted by email to Becky Bannerman, Clerkship Administrator.

6. Each of the submitted essays will be assessed by a Clerkship & Electives Committee member who may provide feedback to the student. If the essay is does not meet expectations, the reviewer may request that the essay be redone.