Interprofessional Shadowing

The students shadow a number of professionals in order to increase their understanding of the roles and scopes of practice of various members of the clinical team. It is expected that students will feel more comfortable collaborating with and understanding the unique contributions made by each team member. The aim is for each student to shadow at least 3 staff or students from professions other than their own.

The following guidelines should be provided to the student to assist in their planning, implementation and reflection of this essential part of their Interprofessional placement:

- A list of staff who are willing to be shadowed, along with their contact information will be provided to you.

- Discuss with the other members of your student team their preferences for shadowing to:
  - Consider pairing with another student (from a different profession) for this activity, when possible, to allow sharing of your learning with a team-mate and for efficiency. After discussing possible meeting times within the team-mate, one student from each pair should take the lead to contact the health care professional in order to work out timelines quickly and with everyone’s schedule in mind.
  - Plan the shadowing time to ensure that it is at a convenient time for staff and clients.

- Shadowing times are flexible but it is suggested that that you spend a few hours or up to half a day with each professional in order to increase your understanding of their role and scope of practice.

- You must discuss specific expectations of the shadowing activity with each professional (asking questions during a client interaction or treatment session; making notes during their observations, etc.)

- Reflect on each shadowing experience and be prepared to share your perceptions and learning with the rest of the IPE team.

*Taken from similar Facilitator Preparation modules, Queens University (meds.queensu.ca)*