



An Online Escape Room used to Support the Growth of Teamwork in Health Professions Students

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BACKGROUND/ RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- The importance of the ability to work as an interprofessional healthcare team in the online environment has been well documented, particularly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁻³
- Virtual interprofessional meetings have been shown to be an effective way to manage patient care.¹
- An ‘interprofessional healthcare teams’ course was adapted from a traditional, face-to-face delivery format to an online course to meet the changing needs of the university and to fit with the trend in healthcare to conduct meetings virtually during the pandemic.⁴
- A paper-based escape room previously used in the face-to-face classroom setting was adapted to fit the online classroom space as a part of the course conversion.

GOAL AND PURPOSE

- This resource describes the development of an online escape room activity using free online resources.
- The activity aimed to enhance health profession students’ abilities to:
 - Communicate effectively,
 - Collaborate to complete a task, and
 - Develop knowledge of the unique roles of healthcare team members
- The overall purpose of the course is to ensure competency of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) Core Competencies:⁵
 - Values and Ethics for Interprofessional Practice
 - Roles and Responsibilities for Collaborative Practice
 - Interprofessional Communication Practices
 - Interprofessional Teamwork and Team-Based Practice

An online interprofessional escape room increased perceptions of abilities to **communicate** and **collaborate** while developing knowledge of team member’s **roles and Responsibilities**.

METHODOLOGY & METHODS

- Teams of five to seven students met online and completed seven puzzles to escape a virtual room.
- Each puzzle focused on the roles and responsibilities of a different member of the healthcare team.
- Pre-post surveys were completed by participants to determine the impact of the activity as it relates to the IPEC Core Competencies:
 - Roles and Responsibilities for Collaborative Practice
 - Interprofessional Communication Practices
 - Interprofessional Teamwork and Team-based Practice
- Mann-Whitney U tests were conducted to determine whether there were differences in the pre-post responses of participants.
- Data were analyzed using a 5% significance level.

RESULTS

- Results obtained from the pre-post surveys of 176 students across six disciplines showed the activity aided in increasing participants perceptions of their ability to communicate respectfully and work together to complete a task, while developing knowledge of the unique roles of members of the healthcare team, all components of the IPEC Core Competencies.

CONCLUSIONS & CURIOSITIES

- This activity lays the groundwork for collaborative, interprofessional activities, such as telehealth, which students will be exposed to in their futures, and the results infer that the activity can help to build collaboration among team members, even team members that are not in the same physical space.

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