

STORYTELLING OF INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAMWORK

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ABSTRACT

We are an interprofessional team that worked together to discuss and treat a patient suffering from Long COVID-19. At the beginning, we came in with assumptions of other professions and carried our biases into the group. However, as we witnessed these professions interact with our Long COVID-19 patient, Amanda, our views and biases began to change. We were privileged to see how interprofessional teams interact and come together for the betterment of our patient.

THE ARRAY OF PROFESSIONALS

In our immersion group, we were fortunate to work with professionals from:

- Pharmacy
- Physician's Assistant
- Occupation Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Social Work
- Medicine

OUR PATIENT: AMANDA

Our patient, Amanda, was admitted to the hospital after being diagnosed with COVID-19 back in April 2021. After a hospitalization of 11 days, she was discharged, but was left with excessive fatigue, cough, brain fog, shortness of breath, migraines, hair loss, and the loss of taste and smell. Our group of interprofessionals met with Amanda over a course of two telehealth video calls to follow up and create a plan of care for her.

WHAT WERE YOUR BIASES OF OTHER PROFESSIONALS?

Pharmacy:

- Facts for drug interactions and indications

Physician's Assistant:

- In charge of history taking and providing basic line of care

Occupational Therapy:

- Fine motor skills and upper extremity therapy, primarily for ADLs and rehab

Physical Therapy:

- Gross motor movement and strength building; overlaps with OT for rehab

Social Work

- Helping patients and family transition from hospital life back to home life. Providing resources.

Medicine

- Director of the group; solely focused on the medical care of the patient

NOW WHAT?

Through this immersive experience, each one of us were able to leave many of our biases behind. As each came together for the sole purpose of treating and caring for Amanda, we began to see the overlap of our roles and learned new ways to expand on others' ideas, as well as our own. Although we are able to bring our own expertise from individual professions, coming together as a team allowed us to view the patient from multiple lenses and provide care that was tailored specifically for her. Each profession truly cares for their patient and this was highlighted greatly through this experience.

HOW DID YOUR BIASES CHANGE?

Pharmacy:

- They are very involved in the entirety of patient care and take into consideration the patient's family/living situation. They also respect the patient's wishes and works to find a balance for their needs.

Physician's Assistant:

- They are very well versed in treating the patient as a whole. Discussed what the patient needed outside of just medicine.

Occupational Therapy:

- Focused greatly on the patient's mental health and innovative when creating a starting point by using objects in the home to improve cognition training.

Physical Therapy:

- Worked with items in home to ensure safety of the patient and gave simple instructions to begin endurance training.

Social Work:

- Motivational speaker of the group. Focused on patient's mental health, provided reassurance, and validated the patient's concerns.

Medical:

- Holistic care of the patient, discussed mental and emotional health of patient while taking into consideration their needs to in person examinations.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- MIT Sloan Management Review. (2020). [Interprofessional Health Team Cartoon]. <https://sloanreview.mit.edu/article/establishing-high-performing-teams-lessons-from-health-care/>