Interprofessional collaborative practice is defined as “when multiple health workers from different professional backgrounds work together with patients, families, carers [sic], and communities to deliver the highest quality of care.” (WHO, 2010)

Helping you deliver patient-centered care through collaboration...

Professionals throughout the healthcare sector can help to lower the risks for patients who use alcohol and other drugs by screening patients for earlier identification and assessment of substance use. Through the Interprofessional Collaborative Practice-Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (IPCP-SBIRT) project, Nurses, Public Health Professionals, and Behavioral Health Counselors in rural healthcare settings will collaborate with their healthcare partners to provide patient-centered, high-quality healthcare.

This project impacts the quality of healthcare for patients in several ways. First, bringing together the health disciplines in collaborative practice will help to deconstruct stereotypes associated with substance use and facilitate linkages between fragmented healthcare sectors. Second, practitioners will learn an evidence-based practice (SBIRT) improving their ability to identify, assess, and provide care for an under-identified cause of clinical visits and hospital admissions associated with substance use and co-morbidities. Third, impacting health risks associated with substance use and abuse is an ideal health issue for interprofessional collaborative practice because substance abuse is an individual patient and overall community health concern. Fourth, quality of health outcomes improve. This project responds to the needs of your organization by strengthening treatment capacity, addressing stigma and barriers to care, responding to the retention needs of the nursing workforce, and assisting you in assessing your readiness for quality and safety requirements with regard to substance abuse screening.

SUPPORTED BY HRSA
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SBIRT is a short, valid and reliable evidence-based model to identify and assess patient substance use. Brief sets of validated questions (typically several minutes) are used to assess your patient’s risk level associated with alcohol and other drug use. If the screen indicates that the patient is healthy in relation to alcohol and other drug use, the healthcare provider offers positive reinforcement for the patient’s healthy behaviors. If the screen indicates risky or hazardous alcohol or other drug use, the healthcare provider or team provides a brief intervention, which can consist of a short discussion where the healthcare provider helps a patient lower his or her risk for alcohol and other drug-related problems. Screening all patients for risky or hazardous alcohol and other drug use will effectively route patients who need professional help into specialty treatment at a lower severity on the Addiction Severity Index (McLellan et al, 1980). Using SBIRT, high-risk patients receive an intervention earlier to interrupt the progression of a potential alcohol or other drug-related disorder. A significant need exists to identify, address, and reduce the risks of substance use in rural communities due to:

- Negative social attitudes about the use of alcohol and illicit drugs making substance use one of the most complex public health issues (Healthy People 2020).
- Need for specialty treatment. In 2008, 23.1 million persons aged 12 or older needed substance use treatment but only 2.3 received it (SAMHSA).

Based on Competency Domains as defined by the Interprofessional Education Collaborative, we created a 7-part interprofessional practice process for you:

**Part 1: Site Visits.** To help us learn about the specific patients served at your site and respond to the needs of your healthcare staff and patient population.

**Part 2: Modules.** Using an online module, participants build a base knowledge of substance use issues and screening, interprofessional practice, roles, and responsibilities. The continuum of alcohol and drug use, abuse and dependency as well as the importance of creating linkages with recovery resources in the community will be addressed. The SBIRT screening protocols will be readily accessible to professionals through a hand-held reference guide.

**Part 3: Case Simulations Practice.** We’ll lead participants through practice scenarios where they can try using SBIRT in a culturally-competent manner while focusing on the interprofessional competency domains of values/ethics, roles/responsibilities, interprofessional communication and teamwork.

**Part 4: Interprofessional Dialogues.** Participants apply the SBIRT model to blinded clinical cases from your facility further establish IP role support.

**Part 5: Social Media Blogs.** Participants can join our online learning community for updates on interprofessional issues, videos, and emergent topics from other sites.

**Part 6: Technical Assistance.** We’ll assist your site champion with any issues, cases or situations needed to foster improved patient outcomes.

**Part 7: Evaluation.** Throughout the six parts of the intervention, we’ll collect questionnaires and conduct a focus group with staff, administrations, and champions to determine impacts, needs, and lessons learned.
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Participants: What’s in it for me?

What is the purpose of the study?
- Assist you, your organization, and community in delivering efficient and effective substance use health care
- Teach you an evidence-based practice to provide care to patients with risky substance use
- Support you in engaging with your interprofessional healthcare team and colleagues for improved patient outcomes

What will I do if I take part?
- Complete several online questionnaires at three different points throughout a 3-month period.
  - All information you provide to us will be kept confidential. Your employer will not know your responses to the questionnaires. Any information collected will only be reported as the sum of all responses (not individual responses).
  - The questionnaires allow us to improve the project over time, report outcomes to our grant agency, and meet the specific needs of your organization.
- Complete a self-paced, online module about substance use issues and interprofessional collaborative practice.
- Complete a self-paced, online, case simulation practice session with several practice scenarios.
- Join interprofessional colleagues from your community in an online session to dialogue about blinded, actual patient cases.
- Participate in an online focus group to discuss your experience.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?
- Up to 8 free CEUs (Continuing Education Units)
- Two $10 Amazon gift cards
- Flexible, online learning from your workplace or home
- Improve your practice and patient outcomes

Who can I contact with questions?
- Contact Project Director, Kathy Puskar, DrPH, RN, FAAN at krp12@pitt.edu or 412-624-6933.