

## SERIES: “FIP CPD Bites series on interprofessional collaborative practice”

Date of release: 18/10/2024

**PURPOSE:** To showcase how pharmacists collaborate with other healthcare professionals within the pharmacy team and within multidisciplinary teams.

### KEY POINTS/HIGHLIGHTS

#### Episode 1: Interprofessional collaborative practice for diabetes management: The role of pharmacists

- Diabetes affects around one in 10 adults worldwide, and is projected to increase, along with its global burden.
- Effective glycaemic control significantly reduces diabetes-related complications. Therefore, medication adherence is critical for the management of the condition.
- Pharmacists provide crucial services such as insulin dosage adjustments, patient education, and medication counselling within diabetes care teams.
- The Diabetes Medication Therapy Adherence Clinic (DMTAC) in Malaysia has shown improved HbA1c levels through pharmacist-led interventions and interprofessional collaboration.
- The use of mobile applications for real-time communication among healthcare providers can enhance outcomes for diabetes patients.

#### Episode 3: Empowering pharmacy technicians and the pharmacy support workforce

- Pharmacy technicians and the support workforce can assist with tasks such as capturing patient history, allowing pharmacists to focus on more complex responsibilities.
- Continuous training, standardised processes and ongoing support, such as team huddles, help pharmacy technicians and the support workforce to practice confidently and effectively within their scope.
- The benefits of integrating pharmacy technicians and the support workforce include improved efficiency and reduced patient waiting times, provided that clear communication with patients and the healthcare team regarding workflow changes is ensured.

#### Episode 2: Interprofessional collaborative practice in the healthcare team

- Community pharmacists play a crucial role in the early detection and monitoring of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as high blood pressure. This is especially beneficial for patients who have not been previously diagnosed or do not show symptoms.
- Interprofessional collaborative practice between pharmacists and other healthcare providers, such as cardiologists, allows for comprehensive and holistic patient care.
- In some countries, pharmacists can detect high blood pressure and refer patients to a physician. This collaboration improves healthcare delivery through prompt diagnosis and treatment.
- In community health, pharmaceutical services are essential to provide timely and efficient care, optimise resources, and achieve positive health outcomes.

You can access all videos here:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXg\\_1uVIPtYAEFjXSpxq38ryXCyt\\_mOUm](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXg_1uVIPtYAEFjXSpxq38ryXCyt_mOUm)

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### IMPLICATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/CALL TO ACTION

- Encourage wider adoption of collaborative care models and develop structured referral systems to ensure comprehensive diabetes and hypertension care from multiple healthcare professionals.
- Foster a culture of open communication and collaboration across all healthcare professionals to support smooth workflow transitions and maximise the potential of the entire pharmacy workforce.
- Encourage structured teamwork between pharmacists and other healthcare professionals to improve early detection and management of NCDs.
- Encourage pharmacists to take proactive roles in patient education and health monitoring, especially for chronic conditions. Building trust and consistent communication can lead to earlier detection and better management of chronic conditions.
- Encourage pharmacy teams to integrate pharmacy technicians and the support workforce into specific tasks to optimise the use of healthcare resources and improve patient care.
- Provide comprehensive training and continuous professional development opportunities for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and the support workforce.
- Pharmacists should emphasise adherence education to support glycaemic control and reduce complications.

### OTHER FIP RESOURCES

- FIP policy statement on interprofessional collaborative practice: <https://www.fip.org/file/6041>
- FIP digital event on improving collaborative care: Strengthening inter- and intra-professional relationships: <https://events.fip.org/previous-fip-digital-events/?event=1241>
- FIP report on international perspectives on integrating pharmacists into collaborative practice: Report from a FIP insight board: <https://www.fip.org/file/6015>

You can access all videos here:  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXg\\_1uVIPtYAEFjXSpqx38ryXCyt\\_mOUm](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXg_1uVIPtYAEFjXSpqx38ryXCyt_mOUm)

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