

Teamwork

Below are definitions for common terms used in building interprofessional teams. When reviewing these definitions, it may be helpful to discuss where your current team is in relation to each of these terms.

Understanding Various Types of Teamwork

Multidisciplinary team members work in parallel or sequentially and independently from their disciplinary orientation (i.e. referral between health providers).

Interdisciplinary team members work collaboratively but still from their discipline-specific orientations, referring and consulting with each other, and also jointly setting up care and treatment plans. The solution to a common problem is generally not addressed within a common framework of how the team works to jointly meet objectives.

Transdisciplinary team members transcend their separate professional orientations to surpass the disciplinary boundaries seen in multi- and interdisciplinary teamwork. There is an integrated approach to the work; common problems can be addressed in a comprehensive way. The expectation is that through working in a transdisciplinary way, new ways of knowing and understanding can emerge, and new solutions to tackle health problems can be found (Otis-Green et al., 2009; Vyt, 2008).

Independent health care management: “One provider works independently to address all of the patient’s issues. The provider works autonomously with limited input from other professionals” (Quality Improvement and Innovation Partnership, 2008, p.7.)

Consultative model: “One provider retains central responsibility and maintains professional independence in patient care while consulting with other professionals as needed “ (Quality Improvement and Innovation Partnership, 2008, p. 7).

