Building generic guidelines for patient safety through interprofessional collaboration

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There is a need for a safer health care and a gap between practitioners and the content in health professional's education. Six professional organisations in Swedish health care started a unique collaboration between 2015-2016. The Swedish Association of Therapists participated in the collaboration that was led by The Swedish Society of Nursing and The Swedish Society of Medicine. The aim was to stress the importance of patient safety and describe how these important competences can be related to other learning objectives for students and in clinical practise for professionals and patients engaged in quality improvement and patient safety. The competencies had to be generic for all educations for registered health professionals.

A Delphi approach were used. The process started with an interprofessional workshop to identify scope for needed competencies in patient safety. Thereafter representatives from all organisations discussed and wrote until consensus was reached. Client-centred practice, environment and assistive devices as part of patient safety were contributions from OT. Final guidelines were comprised by two assigned writers.

The guidelines consists of important aspects of patient safety, client/patient cases, advice for implementation and suggestions for learning outcomes. Each professional organisation are responsible for spreading the material to their members and to education programs within their field.

The learning outcome of this collaboration is that though it is time-consuming the collaboration from different professionals gains a more widespread acceptance of guidelines in practice.