



## Inter-Professional Geriatric Placement

### Inpatient Shadowing Activity

Objective: Each student will shadow an inpatient on the geriatric service at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital for up to one day or one shift in order to more fully understand and appreciate the patient's perspective of and role on the health care team. With a better understanding and appreciation of the patient perspective, it is hoped that the student will be able to collaborate and communicate more effectively with his/her patients while on placement and in future practice.

The following guidelines are offered in order to assist you in the planning, implementation and reflection of this essential part of your inter-professional clinical placement:

- Discuss this activity with your clinical supervisor in order to determine the best time for this activity
- Ask your supervisor for their assistance in deciding which patient to approach about this activity. You may also consult with Kelly Baker, the hospital liaison for the IP Placements.
- Ensure that the patient is willing and gives consent (verbally) for this activity to proceed.
- Explain the inter-professional placement goals and activities and the specific rationale for this activity with the patient.
- Try to schedule a day/shift that represents a 'typical' day in this patient's life in the hospital.
- Discuss with the patient the logistics/process of the day to ensure that there is mutual understanding of how the day will proceed (ie. if you are able to shadow all activities or if the patient feels that some activities are not acceptable for you to observe; is the patient agreeable to questions at any time?)
- Let the patient know that if at any time, they would prefer to end the shadowing activity, this is understandable and should be communicated to you.
- Explain to the patient that your observations and reflections about this activity remain confidential within the hospital and will be shared only with the student's supervisor and the IP team with patient's name being anonymous.
- Reflect on this activity by writing a reflective journal entry, using the guidelines provided, to deepen your learning and provide feedback to the tutorial facilitators. Be prepared to share your perceptions and learning with the rest of the IP team during tutorials. Refrain from using any identifying information about a patient to ensure confidentiality (use a pseudonym or initial rather than their name).
- The patient perspective will be reinforced during one of the tutorials at which a person who has been discharged from the inpatient geriatric service will present their perspective on their hospitalization and care.
- Be sensitive and respectful of the patient's need for privacy, rest and consideration.