

## Interprofessional collaboration: How do health professionals interact with each other in collaborative practice situations?

### Summary of the research plan

**Introduction:** Collaboration in health care has become increasingly important. Some research has been conducted about the way interdisciplinary meetings and team work take place and how this collaborative work is accomplished in healthcare settings. Yet, we know very little about in what institutions/contexts interprofessional collaboration is performed regularly and how health care professionals interact with each other in collaborative situations. The objective of this study is to investigate where, when and how clinicians collaborate with each other within clinical patient care.

**Methods and objectives:** In the first phase of the study, interviews and focus groups will be undertaken with clinicians in French-, German- and Italian-speaking institutions, as well as with coordinators for clinical placement at the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (HES-SO, BFH, ZHAW, SUPSI). This first phase intends to (a) to identify clinical settings in which collaborative practices take place on a regular basis (e.g. rehabilitation hospitals, geriatric institutions), and (b) to characterise collaborative practices as defined by the key stakeholders interviewed. Interviews and focus groups will be analysed using qualitative content analysis. Based on the analysis generated by this first phase of the investigation, around 40 collaborative practice situations in four or five institutions will be video-recorded. We plan to include professionals with various levels of experience (students, novices, experts) in order to see how participants of different categories deal with the requirements of collaborative practice, and to identify what interactional resources (verbal and embodied) they deploy. Transcription and analysis of video-recordings will be performed using Conversation Analysis. Conversation Analysis sheds light onto processes, rather than on the outcome of interactions. The third phase of our study includes knowledge transfer interventions targeting both professional practice

settings and educational settings (workshops, educational interventions).

**Expected results:** The results of this project will help understanding what interprofessional collaborative practice consists of in the context of healthcare, and identify the particular interactive skills required for their successful accomplishment.

**Key words:** Collaborative practice, Interprofessional education, Conversation Analysis, Health care

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30 months



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