

Streeton, A., Bisbey, C., O'Neill, C., Allen, D., O'Hara, Weinhold, M., Miller, J., Bursiek, A. & Grubbs, P. (2016). Improving nurse-physician teamwork: A multidisciplinary collaboration. *MEDSURG Nursing*, 25(1), 31-66.

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One long standing barrier within the healthcare system is the nurse-physician collaboration relationship. In 2012, Schneider stated, historically the nurse-physician relationship was unequal because of the education and sex amongst each profession, in which physicians were superior and the nurse inferior (Streeton et al., 2016). This relationship barrier has made collaboration between the two professional difficult to achieve effective communication, which according to Joint Commission, an accrediting organization, 60-70% of adverse and sentinel events are caused by ineffective communication. Communication between the nurse and physician is vital to create a culture across all disciplines that is safe and supportive for all patients.

Streeton et al. (2016) conducted a "project to gain an understanding of teamwork perceptions across disciplines and to bring teams together in a more structured way" (p. 32). The researchers determined a need to improve collaboration between nurse-physician relationship from a previous project where it was concluded that 68% participants (nurses) perceived resistance from physicians. These findings supported the need to develop a way to improve teamwork and collaboration between the two disciplines.

Streeton et al. (2016) and nursing staff presented data of the previously conducted study at a physician meeting which initiated an open dialogue. From the open dialogue within the

physician meeting, the nurses completed post-survey that resulted a 50% reduction in perceived resistance during an event where collaboration between the disciplines was essential. This opened communication provided an opportunity for continued improvement where collaboration is critical for the safety of patients. The research evaluated the evidence and implemented into practice by developing a Multidisciplinary Collaboration Committee that comprised of various disciplines including physicians.

Communication is essential, and it is very important that communication is received and delivered effectively when working alongside other professionals. Nurses, especially advanced practice nurses, that work closely with physicians may fade out the superior-inferior relationships that nurses and physicians have and work better together for the well-being of patients.