**NURSING STUDENTS’ PERCEPTIONS OF INTERPROFESSIONAL HEALTHCARE TEAM COLLABORATION AND SATISFACTION**

**Abstract**

Nurses working in interprofessional healthcare teams need to collaborate effectively with other health care professionals to provide the best possible care for their patients; however, they generally feel less satisfied than other team members with the team decision-making process. Upon completion of a semester-long, interprofessional case study activity focusing on creation of a hospital discharge plan for a virtual patient, all 28 nursing students enrolled were assessed on their perception of their team’s levels of interprofessional collaboration and their satisfaction with team decision-making. Using a post-test only design and a self-report instrument, summated scores as well as mean subscale scores were calculated. Overall scores indicated that respondents perceived team collaboration levels as relatively high and were generally satisfied with the team decision-making process, but no mean scores were reported in the higher or most positive levels. Best practice recommendations for administration of inteprofessional education programs were followed in the case study activity as well as diverse team membership assigned, possibly contributing to the results. Although causation cannot be inferred, these reported levels may be optimal as collaboration levels too high or too low may both lead to poorer patient outcomes.