

## Week One - Patient Care and Professional Practice

### 1. Who are patients/clients/customers in your discipline?

Patients: **-Hospital (inpatients** – come on chairs and stretchers/ go to ward/ operation theatre; **outpatient-** hospital clinics, accident and emergency) For **suburban private practice: all outpatients** (referred from local GP, minor injury, chronic disease problems).

Clients: **well people** coming for screening procedures

Customers: **those that refer** patients to the department, **families** of patients and **members** of local community.

### 2. What does the concept of patient care mean to your discipline, to you and to your client/patient?

To **provide patient with care with respect for their preferences and values, show empathy, be professional in own discipline and always put patient in first place.**

### 3. What is professional practice? Has this changed over time?

**Basic moral virtues of courage, honesty and justice** are the **foundation for any professional practice** and represent part of the 'ethical probity' of the profession.

Professional practice is a rare blend of **people-centred and interactive processes, accountability and professional standards, practice wisdom, professional artistry, openness to knowledge growth and practice development and engagement in professional journeys towards expertise.** It requires **inter-professional teamwork.**

To be an **effective** team member, **health professions** need to have a range of hard and soft skills. **Hard skills refer to problem solving, clinical expertise, critical thinking and self-reflection,** whilst **soft skills refer to skills such as time management, listening, ability to get on with people, empathy and networking skills.**

Due to the **external economic and political pressures** influencing them, professional practice has **changed over time.**

4. What is inter-disciplinary practice? Why is it important?

Interdisciplinary practice is a **team approach** made up of **different professions from different discipline** for providing services and supports to people. It creates an **integrated effort that exceeds the abilities and resources of any single professional discipline**, provider agency, family, or individual.

Interdisciplinary practice is important because it results in **improved planning, more clinically effective services, a more responsive and patient-focused service, avoidance of duplication and fragmentation and more satisfying roles for healthcare professionals.**

5. What is the role of AHPRA?

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - **supports the 14 National Boards** that are **responsible for regulating the health professions**. The primary role of the **National Boards is to protect the public** and they **set standards and policies** that all **registered health practitioners** must meet.

Week Two - Accessing literature and new knowledge

1. Where can I find databases?

**Library website**

2. What are the best databases for locating health information?

**PubMed, Medline, Scopus, Clinical Key**

3. What is a call number?

**Each item in the library** has a **unique call number** for easy searching.

4. How do I use in-text referencing?

Based on different style and format, usually: (Author, year)

5. What is the difference between a reference list and a bibliography?