

Social work: Integral to interprofessional education and integrated practice

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Growing evidence suggest interprofessional teams involving social workers hold promise for improved patient level health outcomes. For example, findings in Fraser et al.^{37p.} suggest that when compared with routine care, “Integrated primary care provided by interprofessional teams comprised in part of social workers appears to improve the behavioral health and care of patients, while reducing the use of higher cost health services.”

Often responsible for engaging community resources on behalf of patients, social workers are deeply involved also in providing care management and evidence-supported behavioral health interventions. In MSW education, emphasis on the social determinants of health, screening, brief treatment, and care management are congruent with the core features of interprofes-

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