

IPE in Action: Clinical Scenarios for Discussion

Use these brief, real-world scenarios to facilitate discussion about interprofessional collaboration, communication, and role clarity. Prompts are provided to guide group reflection or teaching discussions.

Scenario 1: Missed Handoff

A PGY-1 resident discharges a patient without notifying the case manager. The patient, who lives alone and lacks transportation, misses follow-up appointments and is readmitted three days later.

Discussion Prompts:

- Where did the communication breakdown occur in this case?
- What roles were not clearly defined or activated?
- How could IPE principles have improved the outcome?

Scenario 2: Bedside Disagreement

During interdisciplinary rounds, a resident and the bedside nurse disagree about the timing of the medication. The conversation becomes tense, and the patient later expresses confusion about their plan of care.

Discussion Prompts:

- What dynamics contributed to this conflict?
- How might interprofessional respect and shared decision-making have helped?
- What strategies can help repair team trust in real time?

Scenario 3: Team Success Story

In the ICU, a respiratory therapist speaks up about a subtle change in a patient's breathing pattern. The team reevaluates the case, identifies early sepsis, and adjusts the plan—leading to rapid stabilization.

Discussion Prompts:

- What allowed the RT to feel empowered to speak up?
- How did this team demonstrate effective collaboration?
- How can we replicate this kind of culture across other settings?