

# Understanding Interprofessional Practice Challenges for Advancing Integrated Care

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## INTRODUCTION

Interprofessional collaborative practice is a key strategy for strengthening a system of integrated, coordinated care and improving health outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

The healthcare system is faced with greater demands, particularly with the growth in chronic conditions, highlighting the need for multi-provider expertise and well-designed collective action that will meet diverse patients' needs.<sup>1</sup>

Clinically integrated care, as the goal of interprofessional team-based approaches, has been described as conceptually ambiguous with little understanding of what success looks like in different practice settings or in various situations.<sup>2</sup>

## AIM

To understand the factors influencing interprofessional collaborative practice among health care providers.

Specifically:

1. What are the opportunities, challenges and barriers for operationalizing interprofessional practice?
2. Who is collaborating within and beyond a co-located team? (ie., micro- and meso-level )

Survey to be administered to all registrants affiliated with the healthcare regulatory colleges in Manitoba.

## METHOD

- A literature and environmental scan to identify a survey.
- Consultation with Manitoba Alliance of Healthcare Regulatory Colleges Continuing Competence Interest Group.

Documents guiding this inquiry:

*IPC Practice Direction Document* (Fig 1) created by Manitoba Alliance of Healthcare Regulatory Colleges Continuing Competence Interest Group and distributed to all registrants.

Interprofessional Collaborative competency framework<sup>3</sup> guiding interprofessional education and collaboration are relatively new.

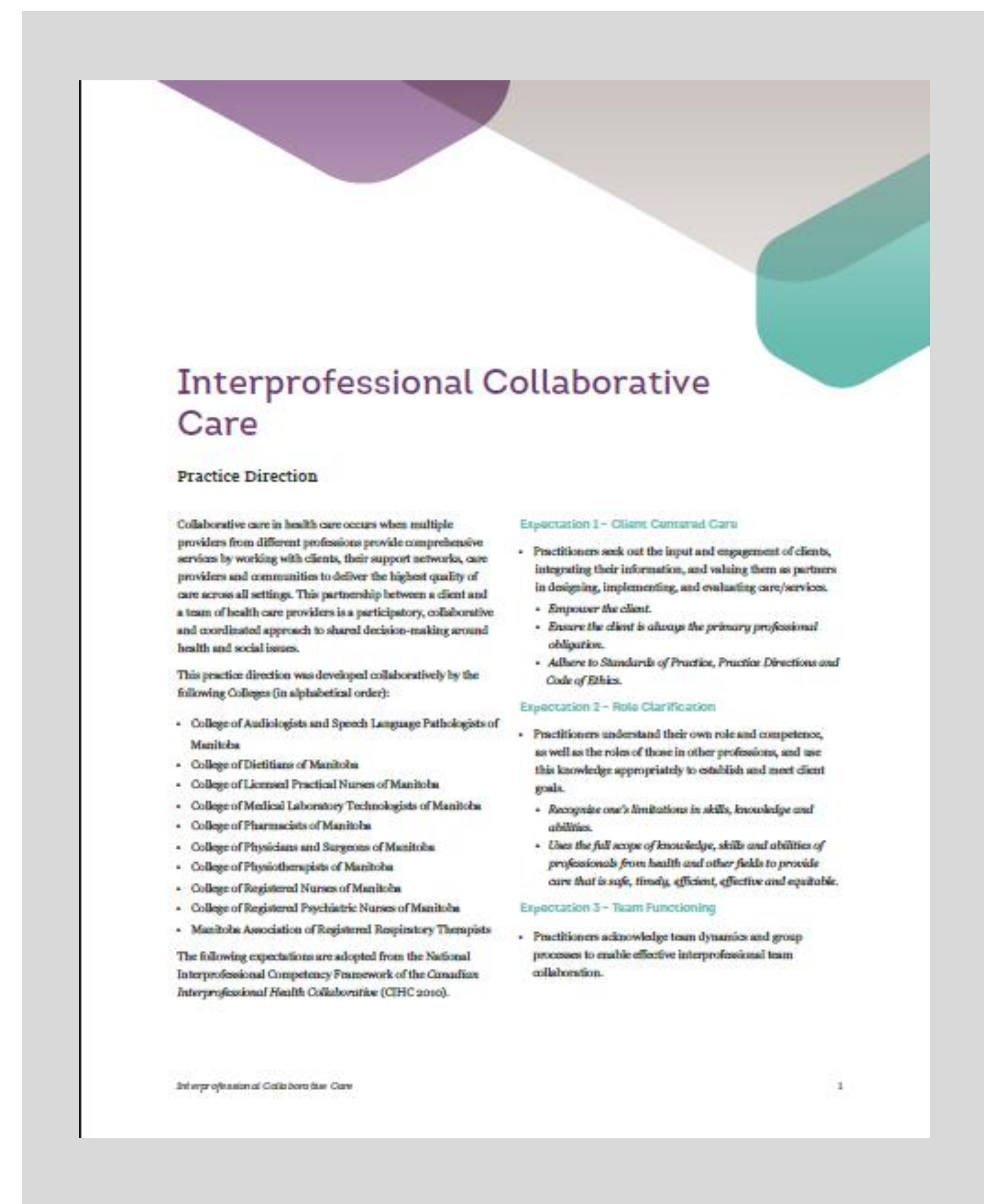


Figure 1: Practice Direction Document

## FINDINGS / DISCUSSION

This work is currently in progress.

Thus far, our search has generated 37 practice-oriented instruments that assess interprofessional collaboration.

**Challenge: a survey instrument that assesses interprofessional collaboration and meets a broad set of criteria** (Fig 2).

Survey responses need to provide insights on the concrete experiences and broad factors affecting interprofessional collaboration.

Previous investigation by the Evaluation Subcommittee of the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative<sup>4</sup> recorded 119 different instruments/methods reported.

Six instruments were found to be most common (and validated)

Most were newly developed and not validated.

## NEXT STEPS

- Continue search for evaluation tools
- Continue screening with two main questions:
  - 1) which competencies are covered
  - 2) which of expectations outlined in the Practice Direction document are covered.
- Continue consultations with Health Regulators
- Consider the development of an instrument?



Figure 2. Criteria for Survey Suitability

## IMPLICATIONS

Feedback from practitioners will reveal the reality of interprofessional practice.

These findings will be important for understanding the challenges presented to practitioners who face different practice contexts and situations.

The lessons learned may contribute to the ongoing development of IPE curricula, continuing professional development and practice-oriented strategies that will advance collaborative health care practice and optimize integrated care.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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