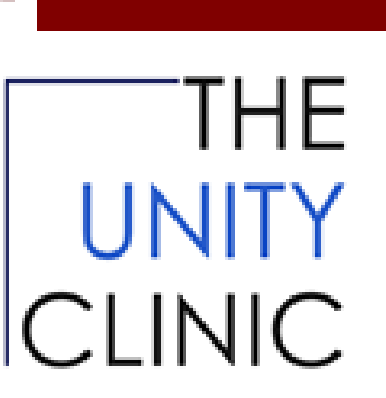


Student Involvement in Interprofessional Education Programs

Can Increase Awareness of OT's Role in Primary Care



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Learning Objectives

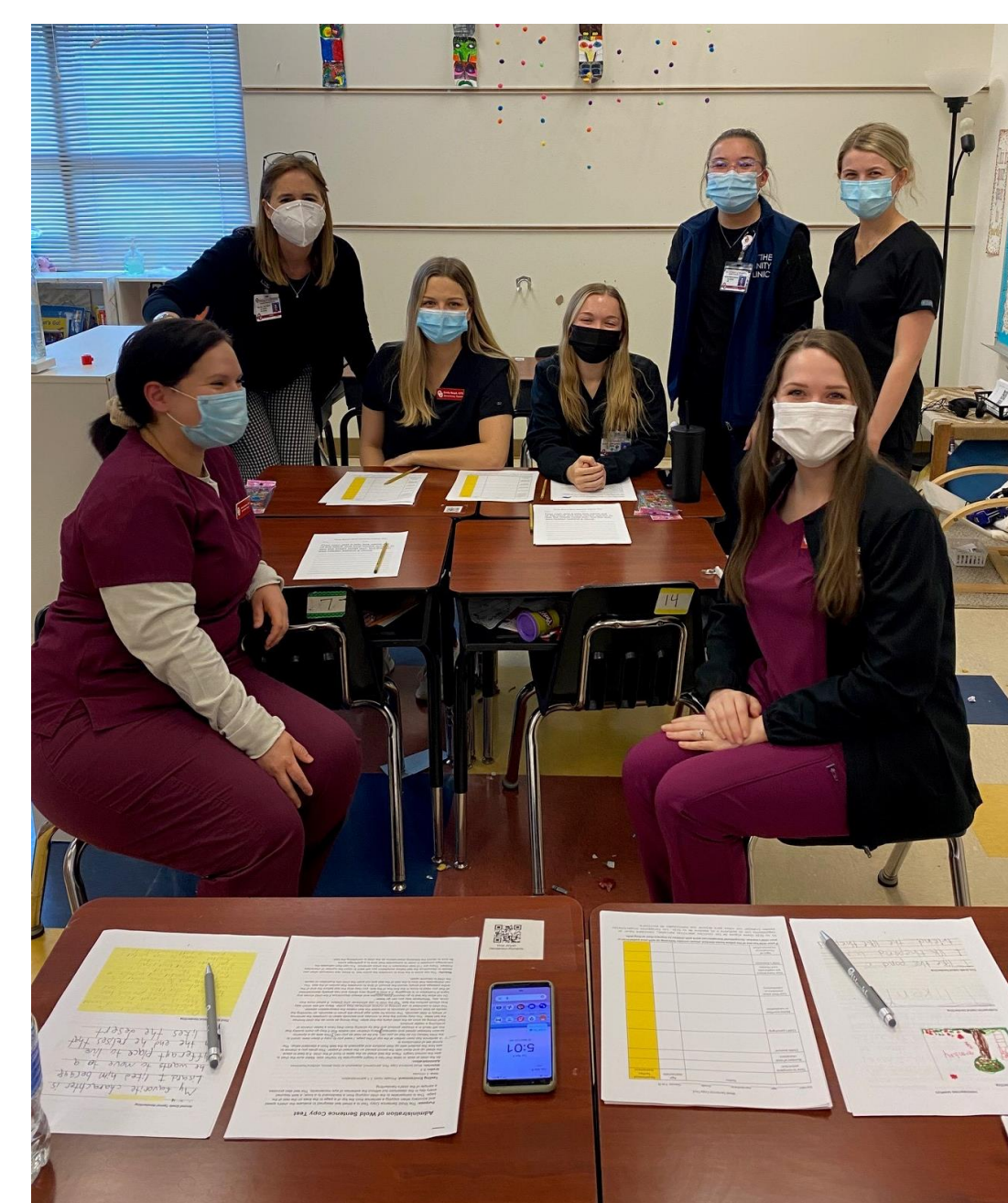
1. Use methods described to promote occupational therapy services in interdisciplinary teams and primary care
2. Describe how a visual educational tool and online educational module can support understanding of all interdisciplinary roles and expand knowledge of the unique role of OT.

Abstract

The Interprofessional Intervention Opportunities Tool (IIOT) is a color-coded flier for students and proctors at an interprofessional student-run primary care clinic that visually links many diabetes symptoms to disciplines that can provide intervention. The IIOT aims to enable healthcare students to think beyond stereotypes of their team members' scope of practice and increase intervention options. Many clinicians outside our profession define OT's role in a limited scope (White et al., 2019). The lack of understanding between disciplines is not uncommon. The IIOT provides OT students opportunities to explain the breadth of OT intervention to improve patient well-being. We created an online interactive training module linking the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) competencies of teamwork and professional roles with the IIOT through a clinic case study. One hundred twenty-nine interdisciplinary students completed the module in the 2022 clinic onboarding. Students have access to the IIOT in the clinic to assist in conversations between disciplines during treatment planning. The format was designed to be replicated using different diagnoses. Exposing student clinicians to interprofessional collaboration in primary care can increase knowledge of OT and promote services that improve client outcomes.



Student OT volunteers at back-to-school health fairs in 2022. They learned alongside social work, nursing, nutrition, pharmacy, audiology, medicine, public health and dentistry.

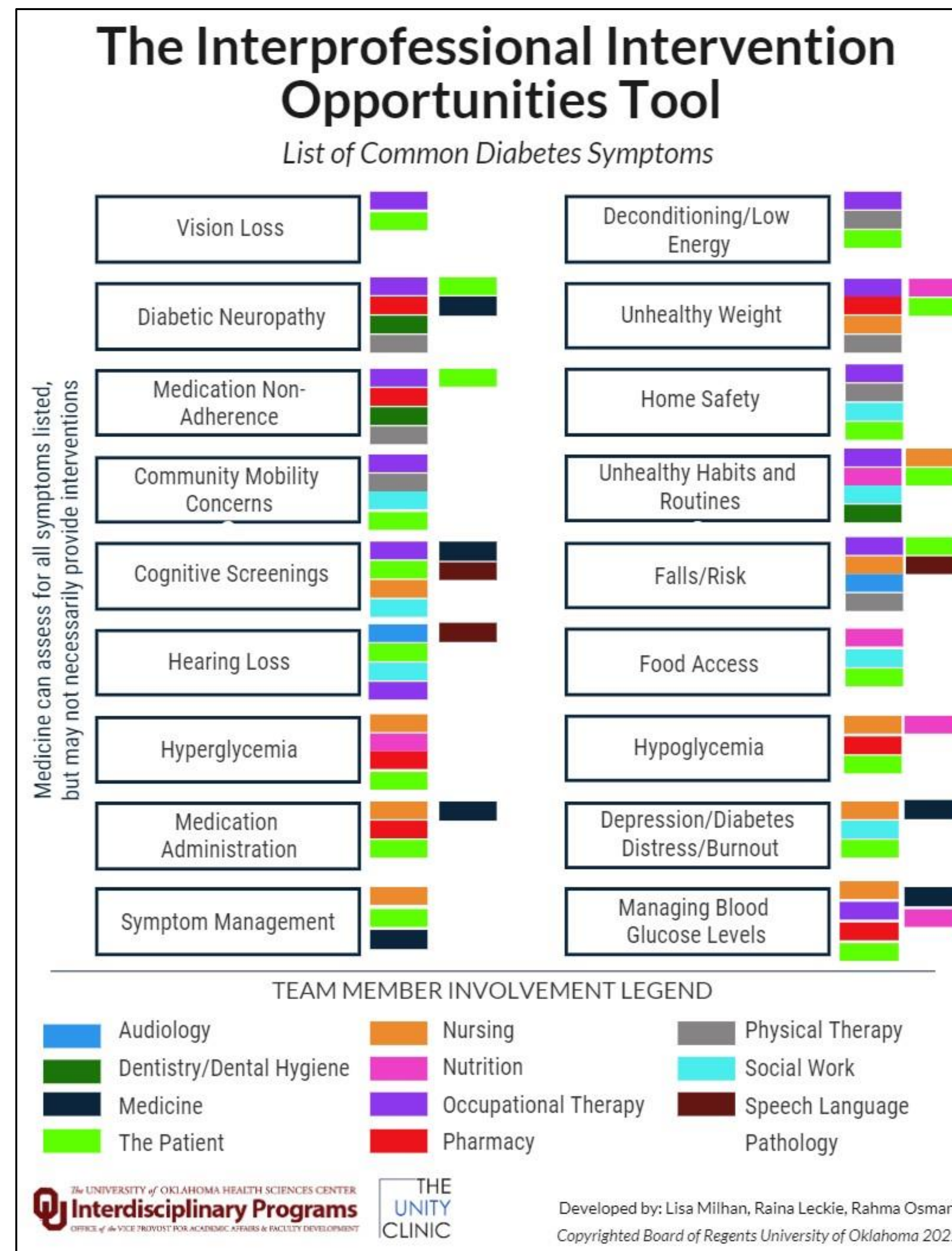


Introduction

- Student clinicians in IPE are not confident in their professions' scope of practice
- Students can be profession-centric when creating a care plan for clients.
- Occupational therapy students struggle to define our scope of practice.
- OTs use words like "rehabilitation" to how we treat and "those with disabilities" for whom we treat (Turpin et al., 2012).
- A novice interpretation of OT becomes problematic during interprofessional interactions
- There may not be time or mental focus to provide a lengthy, holistic description of OT to other professions in the IP clinic.

The Interprofessional Intervention Opportunities Tool for Diabetes can be a valuable for the following reasons:

1. Focuses the student on the client's needs based on their symptoms
2. quickly shows what professions can intervene to provide appropriate care to the client
3. Can show overlap in scope of practice, allowing for increased intervention opportunities regardless of any particular profession being absent for clinic.



Methodology

We conducted a literature review on IPE programs in primary care, IPE specific to diabetes intervention, IPE educational tools, and Occupational therapy and IPE in primary care. We found gaps in understanding occupational therapy, in understanding any individual profession's scope of practice related to diabetes management in primary care, and in quick visual tools to support IPE and utilization of interprofessional services. Health professional representatives added their professions to the symptoms that are within their scope of practice to treat. Several visual designs were created and presented to the IPE curriculum team until this final product was agreed on. An interactive learning module was created to support the students' initial exposure to different professions' scope of practice related to diabetes care and the IIOT. A copy of the IIOT was available for the clinic teams to utilize.

Results

At the end of 2022, 129 students from various professional programs completed the training and quiz. The IIOT for Diabetes was provided to students and faculty proctors during primary care clinic events. Anecdotal responses stated that it was useful, but we could not determine the tools effectiveness. A research design is in development to test if the IIOT increases scope of practice knowledge better than IPE clinic experiences without the tool.

Impact

How does this help OT

1. It demonstrates the breadth for which OT can assist clients with diabetes
2. It demonstrates where our scope of practice overlaps with other professions
3. It may increase awareness of our value in primary care
4. It provides OT students with a visual reminder of our scope of practice to improve communication of our scope of practice

Why did we create our visual aid around clients with Diabetes?

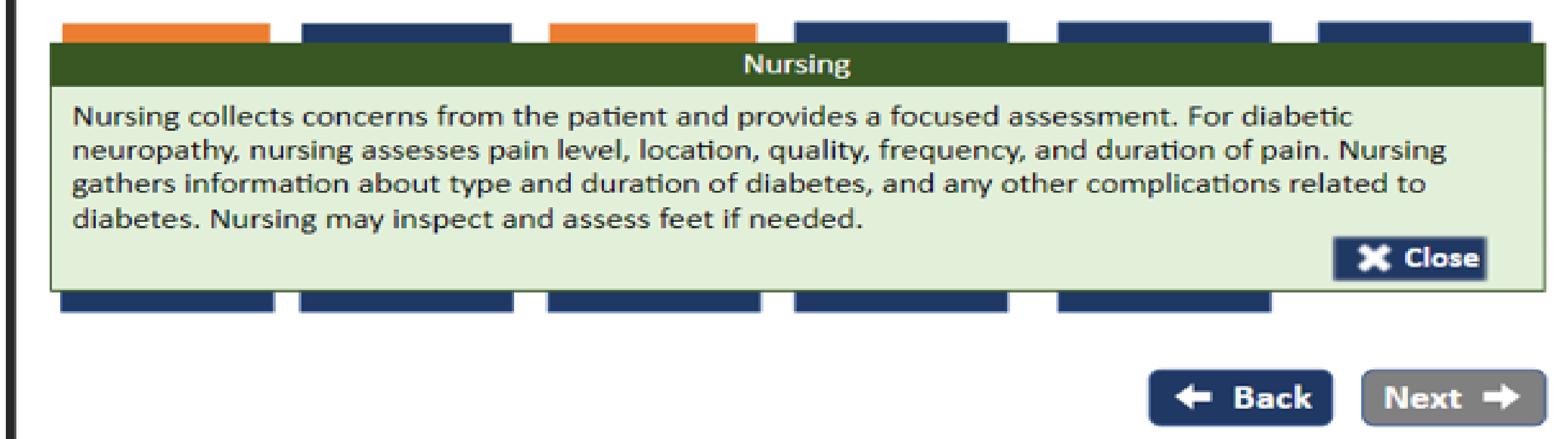
1. We wanted to focus our interprofessional education on the quadruple aim: Improving population health, enhancing the client's experience, easing burnout in and burden on practitioners, and reducing cost
2. We wanted to align with the IPEC core competencies: Values/ethics, roles/responsibilities, Communication, Teamwork
3. Diabetes and prediabetes are one of the most common and costly diagnoses in Oklahoma
4. the outcome of a client with Diabetes can be adversely affected by not providing holistic, evidence-based care from a team of professionals (Feldhacker & Doll, 2020).
5. Every student professional involved in the IPE programs will likely provide intervention to someone who has Diabetes.

Conclusion

The IIOT for Diabetes has had praise from interprofessional educators locally and nationally, but the effectiveness of the tools needs to be researched. A research design is currently in development with a plan to start gathering control group data spring of 2023 and test group data in the fall of 2023. Limitations to the current tool include: coloring may not support those with color blindness and font is small for those with vision limitations. Some professions not included because they do not currently participate in the Unity Clinic program. OT is underutilized in primary care even when 100% of OK physicians surveyed believe it would be beneficial to patients (Klinedinst, 2023). We plan to study the effectiveness of the IIOT for student learning and its potential to increase likelihood of referring to underutilized disciplines.

Roles and Responsibilities Activity

Sara has recently been diagnosed with Diabetes, she has come into clinic this morning and is reporting about having pain and numbness in the leg. The healthcare team has confirmed that Sara is most likely dealing with Diabetic Neuropathy and is currently devising her plan of care. Below are all the professions that are available to help treat Sara's symptoms. Before clicking each profession, can you think of how they might be able to support Sara?



Above is an example of one slide in the interactive-learning IPE module. Interprofessional students read the scenario and click on each professions' box to learn how they overlap and compliment other professions scope of practice.

To the left are References