

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Improving performance is integral to the mission of MGH and to the day-to-day work of all hospital staff and employees. This is accomplished **through interdisciplinary collaboration** as clinicians seek to achieve optimal outcomes for patient and families.

Nurses work collaboratively with many disciplines to enhance care provided to patients. Some examples of disciplines that nursing interfaces with include medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, social service, chaplaincy, speech therapy, nutrition services, and pharmacy based on individual patient needs.

Senior management, including our Sr. Vice President for Patient Care and Chief Nurse, actively participates in strategic planning for the hospital. These initiatives are operationalized to clinicians and staff through the hospital by hospital wide, patient specific and unit specific committees as well as Collaborative Governance with the overall goal of improving care for our patients and families. Both staff nurses and nurses in leadership positions participate on these various committees.

Hospital-wide committees are available resources to clinicians. Examples include: Optimal Care Committee, Ethics Committee, Nurse Pharmacy Committee, and the Code Call Committee.

Unit-specific committees may exist around practice or policy issues with collaboration from various disciplines. Examples may include OR Coordinating Committee, Critical Care Committee and SICU Interdisciplinary Rounds. Standards of Care are established collaboratively by the Nursing Director, Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Medical Director in such specialty areas such as ICUs and the ED.

Patient-population based committees work together around a particular initiative. Examples include the Patient Family Advisory Committee (PFAC) to address cancer based issues and the Women's Health Initiative that focuses on improving care for women across all services.

Collaborative Governance (the seven-committee communication and decision-making structure in Patient Care Services) was designed to optimize staff participation in organizational decision-making within and across disciplines. Collaborative Governance membership includes Nursing, Physical Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Speech/Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Chaplaincy, and Social Work.

The Staff Perception of the Professional Practice Environment Survey evaluates staff's satisfaction with their work environment. In 2006, 92% of staff that responded to the survey reported that they were satisfied/very satisfied with their professional practice environment. Results also indicated that good relations and teamwork between clinicians and physicians continue to exist.