



WORKING TOGETHER *on* MODERN SOLUTIONS *for* BETTER CARE

Quality health care requires teamwork.

That means everyone – from physicians to nurses to dietitians – has a critical role to play in modern health care delivery.

As our health system struggles to deal with rising cost pressures, worker shortages, shifting roles and responsibilities, and other emerging challenges, teamwork has never been so important.

That's why health policy analysts have consistently identified collaborative practice and team building as leading strategies for successful health care reform.

For many decades, health care has been governed by a strict hierarchy – one that has been slow to adapt to the benefits of interdisciplinary team work.

But as the complexities of modern care call for new ways of doing things, there is increased recognition that no single medical professional or allied health practitioner has all the skills, expertise or time to deal with an individual's total care needs.



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This is as true for acute care as it is for residential and community care.

One need look no further than a typical surgery to understand the many roles and responsibilities involved with seeing a patient through from diagnosis to surgery preparation and post surgical care, to rehabilitation and nutrition support, to follow up treatment and home care.

In recent years, government and its health authorities have come to recognize that modern solutions to health care's challenges depend on all practitioners working to their full potential and/or scope of practice.

Since 2006, HEU has worked closely with all health care stakeholders to develop policies that promote positive, collaborative change in our workplace culture.

And in 2010 bargaining, HEU secured a \$2.5 million grant from the B.C. Health Education Foundation to support programs that ensure more effective utilization of LPNs and care aides.

During National Nursing Week, 2011, we celebrate the team, and the teamwork, that makes all our successes possible.

As HEU members who work in all parts of the health system we will continue to advance modern solutions to make our health care stronger.

WORKING TOGETHER

- creates understanding, respect and trust across the team
- improves quality care and patient safety
- reduces stress and increases morale
- solves problems through shared leadership
- expands learning opportunities
- promotes effective utilization of all practitioners