

# Students

## **The building blocks of interprofessionalism: a new curriculum for international nursing students**

Internationally educated nurses (IENs) have had a long history of learning at Bridgepoint, coming in Instructor led groups to the hospital for almost a decade. And thanks to a great partnership with George Brown College and funding from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI), Bridgepoint will build on this history and its reputation for excellence in integrated, multi-disciplinary care to create a curriculum that introduces the concepts of interprofessional practice in the context of the Canadian healthcare system.

Bridgepoint is working with UHN, George Brown and the Centre for Interprofessional Education at University of Toronto to help design an interprofessional curriculum that will be rolled out to IENs at Algonquin, Centennial Fanshawe and Mohawk Colleges. Through this project, 180 IENs will be exposed to a curriculum that will support their skills in interprofessional collaboration and interprofessional care.

“It’s exciting to see something that we have worked to grow here at Bridgepoint take flight in other settings,” says Elizabeth Hanna, Interprofessional Education Specialist at Bridgepoint. “And the opportunity for us to learn through the partnerships with other colleges and health care settings will continue to teach us as well.”

In 2013 there were over 15,300 registered member of the CNO who received their initial education internationally (excluding the United States). This represents approximately 10% of their membership.

The practice of collaborating as part of an interprofessional team is unfamiliar to the majority of IENs. They often need to learn and practice the communication skills required to work with the range of health professions we have here at Bridgepoint. This program is designed to help them successfully complete the registration requirements of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO).

Several recent initiatives have built on our previous work with George Brown and MCI to support nurses educated outside of Canada. In 2013 internationally educated nursing staff from Bridgepoint participated in three pilots to develop language courses for the unique needs of IEN students. This past fall, Bridgepoint nurses were paired with IENs as part of pilot preceptor program designed to assist the transition into the workforce. Another pilot, which focuses on mentorship and work readiness, was launched in January 2015.