

# Educational Needs Assessment in Psoriasis: Developing Competencies-Based Continuing Interprofessional Education Programs for Dermatologists and Nurses

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### Psoriasis is:

- A chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease with a prevalence estimated at 2-3% in Canada<sup>[1]</sup>
- Poorly understood and poorly recognized

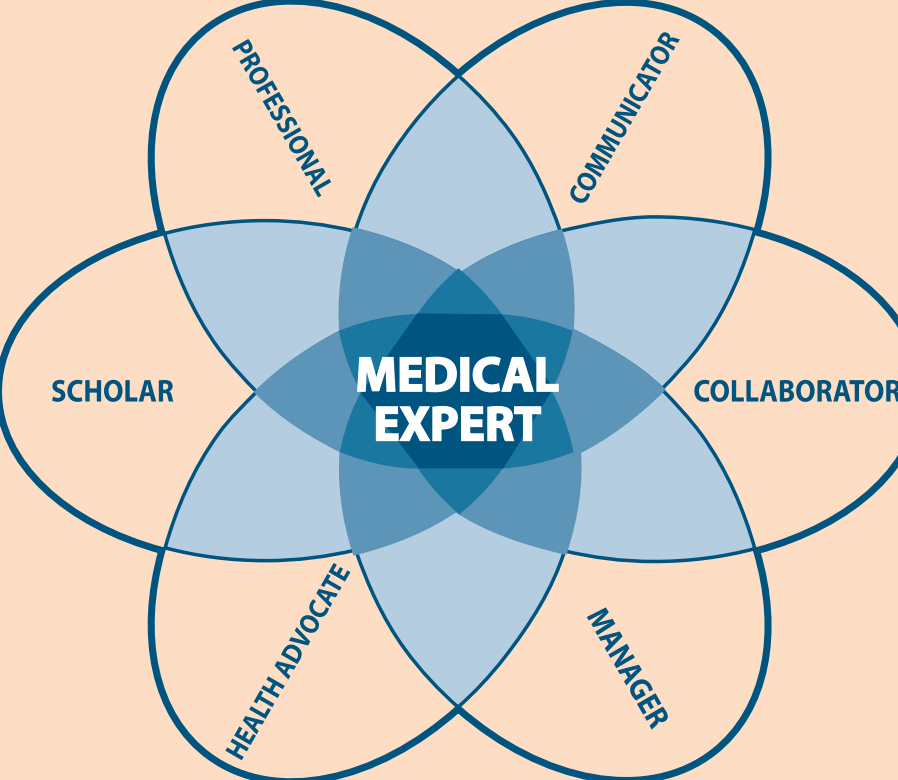
### To help patients live longer, healthier lives, a better understanding is needed of:

- The disease and its characteristics
- The challenges and barriers to optimal care that health care providers face<sup>[2]</sup>

Identification of the current clinical care gaps and educational needs of Canadian dermatologists and nurses specialized in dermatology

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Design of more targeted competencies-based interprofessional educational initiatives

↓  
Better integrated team practice towards patients with psoriasis



**CanMEDS Framework<sup>[3]</sup>**

- Adopted in 1996 by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to define essential physician competencies
- Seven Roles:
  - Medical Expert
  - Communicator
  - Collaborator
  - Health Advocate
  - Manager
  - Scholar
  - Professional

**Medical organizations from other countries have adopted multi-competency models as well:**  
For example, in the US, The American Board of Internal Medicine<sup>[4]</sup> uses a model with the following 6 competencies: (1) patient care; (2) medical knowledge; (3) practice-based learning and improvement; (4) interpersonal and communication skills; (5) professionalism; and (6) systems-based practice.

## 2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Determine clinical care challenges of dermatology physicians and nurses
- Identify perceived and unperceived educational needs on multiple levels: Knowledge, skill, attitude, behaviour, context, and system

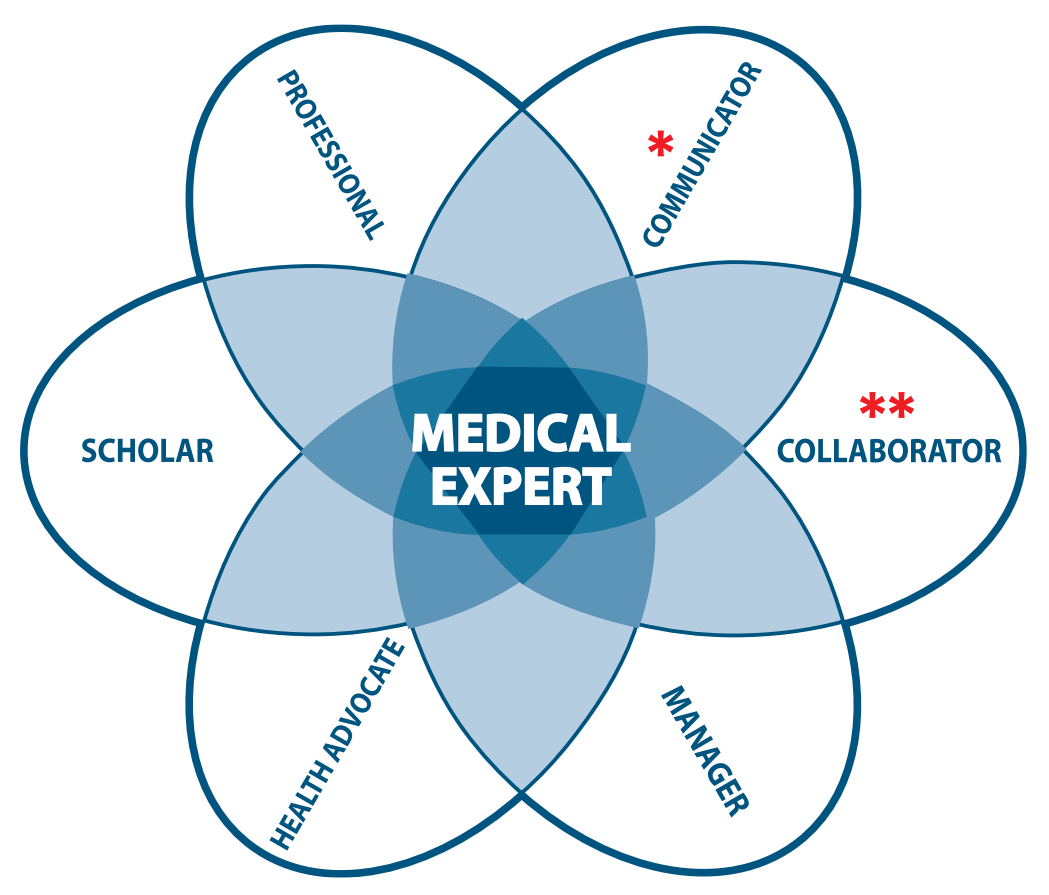
## 3 METHODS

Phase 1	Phase 2: Qualitative Exploratory Data Collection			Phase 3: Quantitative Confirmatory Data Collection	
Literature Review	Discussion Group	Telephone Interviews		Online Survey	
IRB Review	Dermatologists (n=6)	Nurses (n=6)	Patients (n=7)	Dermatologists (n=50)	Nurses (n=14)

## 4 FINDINGS

Qualitative Interviews Dermatologists and Nurses Indicated:	Quantitative Survey	Perceived and Unperceived Educational Needs
<p>Difficulty in dealing with patients' beliefs, fears, and unrealistic goals, contributing to inconsistent and incomplete patient education and emotional support.</p> <p><i>"I don't want to be mean, but he [dermatologist] looks, he prescribes a cream, and... See you later!"</i> PATIENT</p> <p><i>"We have to deal with any problem, but I'm not a psychologist!"</i> DERMATOLOGIST</p>	<p>24% of dermatologists rated their own skills in dealing with emotional reactions of patients with psoriasis as "high"</p>	<p>Need for optimization of healthcare providers' communication skills</p>
<p>Suboptimal collaboration and lack of clarity on the roles and responsibilities of primary care physicians, dermatologists and nurses caring for patients with psoriasis.</p> <p><i>"But when I see somebody who's been using nothing but cortisone for 2 years and nobody's offered them anything else and they have a lot of Psoriasis, I'm not pleased!"</i> NURSE</p> <p><i>[Asking patient] "Did you try anything? No. Did your PCP recommend anything? No. It's irritating, frustrating."</i> DERMATOLOGIST</p>	<p>74% of dermatologists indicated the lack of communication with PCPs as a barrier to optimal management of patients with psoriasis</p>	<p>Need for optimization of collaboration skills among the healthcare team and clarification of each health care provider's roles and responsibilities</p>

## 5 PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

CANMEDS FRAMEWORK	NEEDS	HOW TO ADDRESS?
	<p>*Patient-provider communication</p>	<p><b>Design interventions that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Enhance the value and contribution to patient health outcomes of effective patient-provider communication</li> <li>■ Aims at improving patient-provider relationship skills</li> <li>■ Provide clear, actionable tools to support patient-centered shared decision-making</li> </ul>
	<p>**Interprofessional collaboration</p>	<p><b>Design interventions that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bring different professionals together in order to enhance their understanding of each others' roles, responsibilities and contributions to the healthcare team</li> <li>■ Aims at improving interprofessional collaboration skills</li> <li>■ Provide clear, actionable tools to support teamwork and inter-professional communications</li> </ul>

## 6 REFERENCES

- [1] <http://www.psoriasisguide.ca> Accessed April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.
- [2] Fact Sheet Autoimmune Disease in Women: National Women's Health Information Center Website. <http://www.womenshealth.gov/> Accessed April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.
- [3] Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The CanMEDS Physician Competency Framework - Better standards, better physicians, better care. <http://rcpsc.medical.org/canmeds/index.php> Accessed April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.
- [4] American Board of Internal medicine. Policies and procedures for certification. <http://www.abim.org/pdf/publications/Policies-and-Procedures-cert-August2009.pdf> Accessed April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.