

# Defining Community of Practice



# Definition

“A group of people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis.”

— *Etienne Wenger, a key theorist of CoPs*



# Key Characteristics of a CoP in an Allied Health Setting



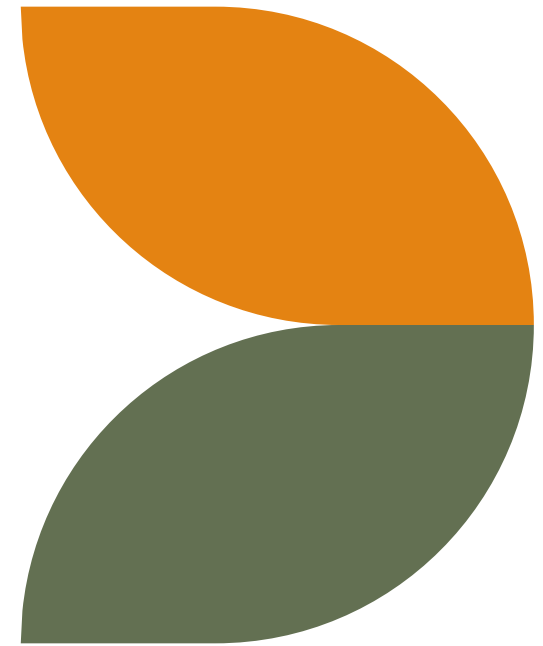


# Shared Domain of Interest

1. The group focuses on a specific area relevant to their work—e.g., stroke rehabilitation, chronic pain management, pediatrics, rural healthcare delivery.
2. Members have a common identity as allied health professionals, often working in interdisciplinary teams.

# Community

1. Members build relationships, trust, and mutual respect.
2. They meet regularly (formally or informally), often across organizations or geographical boundaries, to learn together.





# Practice

1. The focus is on improving professional practice through sharing experiences, case discussions, evidence-based strategies, tools, and resources.
2. Learning is embedded in real-world challenges and applied immediately in clinical settings.



# In Allied Health Settings

## Purpose

**Facilitate knowledge exchange**

**Promote evidence-based practice**

**Encourage reflective practice**

**Support innovation and problem-solving**

## Benefits

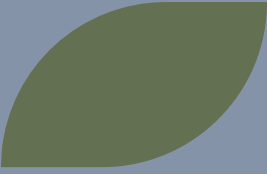
Reduces professional isolation, especially in rural or remote areas and increase professional confidence

Improves patient care and outcomes

Builds professional confidence and critical thinking

Helps address complex clinical or service delivery challenges such as providing culturally relevant services

# How Do You Want This CoP to Be?



<b>Domain (Focus Area)</b>	Pediatrics, Culturally Relevant Practice
<b>Purpose / Goal</b>	What are we working towards? E.g., improve practice, share knowledge, develop tools
<b>Membership</b>	Who should be involved? Include diverse experience levels and roles
<b>Structure</b>	Will it be informal or semi-structured? Who facilitates? How often do you meet?
<b>Activities</b>	What kinds of sessions or formats? (e.g., case sharing, guest talks, resource co-creation)
<b>Platform/Tools</b>	How will you connect?
<b>Time Commitment</b>	How often do you meet? (e.g., monthly, quarterly?) How long are sessions?
<b>Outcomes to Measure</b>	How will you know it's working? (e.g., changes in practice, satisfaction, confidence)
<b>Sustainability Plan</b>	Who keeps it going? Are responsibilities shared or rotated?



# Poll

Please share your thoughts by completing the Zoom poll.

