Provides the framework for the professional case manager to incorporate a competency-based practice on a daily basis.

The emphasis on high quality and cost-effective health care mandates the adoption of competency-based practice, which ties individual and department performance to an organization's bottom line.

COLLABORATE defines categories of competence, which drive positive outcomes for the patient, organization, and - most importantly - for the case management professional seeking to improve his/her level of practice excellence.

The ultimate focus of case management is to improve the client's health care experience and quality of life. COLLABORATE facilitates this expectation, raising the professional profile of case management through the promotion of outcome-driven relationships across the entire care team. This advanced model defines professional practice and unifies the essential knowledge, skills, and characteristics necessary for contributing value in virtually all care settings.

This text is presented in four sections:
- Section 1: Historical validation and paradigm rationale;
- Section 2: Presentation of COLLABORATE competencies;
- Section 3: Practical application for the individual and organization;
- Epilogue: A look to the future of case management practice.

COLLABORATE provides the momentum for all stakeholders to shift away from the past task-driven approach and advance into the realm of professional case management practice, which is universally recognized as an outcomes-driven profession.