



West Midlands Education Innovation and Notable Practice

**INVOLVING STUDENT NURSES IN INTERDISCIPLINARY
SIMULATION IN PAEDIATRICS**

2010 - 2011



INVOLVING STUDENT NURSES IN INTERDISCIPLINARY SIMULATION IN PAEDIATRICS

BURTON HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Overview:	We invited student children's nurses to join paediatric ST1 trainees in a paediatric emergency training day. The student nurses found the experience beneficial both from the point of view of experiencing (simulations of) paediatric emergencies and having an opportunity to put into practice the skills they had acquired so far in their training. As well as having the opportunity to deal with common paediatric emergencies the paediatric trainees gained insight into teamwork/leadership and learned more about the roles of other professionals in the multidisciplinary team.
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All medical trainees in paediatrics attend well established monthly regional teaching sessions. For new ST1s the first day of this teaching is usually dedicated to scenarios covering a number of the common paediatric emergencies they will have to deal with in their new posts. When available we have invited nurses from our paediatric wards to play the 'nursing role' and, sometimes, the role of the carer/parent to improve the quality of this training. This year we invited student children's nurses to take part. We felt this would help with their professional development and provide a participant in the scenarios to play the nursing role. It would also allow us to develop interprofessional learning in our Trust.

We developed our existing scenarios to provide learning objectives for the student nurses and arranged a briefing for them and introduction to the 'ABC' approach to resuscitation on the morning of the session. Both groups received a short booklet on dealing with paediatric emergencies. A number of nurses from our paediatric ward and NNU attended to act as mentors to the student nurses. Staffordshire Children's Social Care provided a social worker to help facilitate a child protection scenario. Other scenarios covered sudden unexpected infant death, diabetic ketoacidosis, status epilepticus, respiratory distress, sepsis and cardiac arrhythmia. Scenarios were run with a mixture of high fidelity simulation mannequins, standard mannequins and equipment, photographs (for the child protection) and nursing staff taking the roles of parents/carers. Where possible scenarios were run as real time simulations to allow appropriate assessment and treatment (working out drug doses, checking drugs, drawing up fluids, discussions with parents/carers, referral to specialities/PICU etc.).

Following the introductory session the paediatric trainees and student nurses took part in a group (teambuilding) exercise around the 'ABC' approach.

Eleven student nurses volunteered (mostly first and third years) and eleven paediatric (ST1) trainees attended the day. Both groups evaluated the day highly and all recommended further sessions. Doctors tended to comment positively on knowledge and practical skills gained but also learned team working and leadership skills. (During an early scenario one commented 'I've run out of doctors' at which point she started assigning the nurses to appropriate roles). Comments from the doctors included 'good to see a different point of view' and 'appreciate a different role'. Student nurses enjoyed the opportunity to see common emergency scenarios played out (and to take part in them) – 'what happens in a resus, never seen one before'. They also appreciated the opportunity to 'put skills they learnt' on their course into practice. The guidance of the qualified nurses in helping them fulfil their roles proved invaluable. Many of the student nurses commented that they found some of the scenarios challenging. (What do you say to the mother of a baby that has just died or is being referred to social services?) On the whole they preferred to discuss these thoughts quietly with nursing mentors than share them in the group debrief. Both groups commented on the added realism that working in a team provided and agreed that the combined training provided them with increased insight into the other professional role.

We do plan to run the session again and would like to thank the paediatricians and children's nurses who supported the event so enthusiastically.