IN SITU SIMULATION TRAINING IMPROVES INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION IN THE ICU

McAdam, Stuart1; Haroon, Babar2; Witter, Tobias3; Doucette, Steve4; Theriault, Chris4
1Medicine (Medical Student), Dalhousie, Halifax, Canada; 2Critical Care, Internal Medicine, Dalhousie University, Capital Health, Halifax, Canada; 3Critical Care, Anesthesia, Dalhousie University, Capital Health, Halifax, Canada; 4Research Methods Unit, Capital Health, Halifax, Canada

Introduction: Several studies have found teamwork and communication to be the root cause of the majority of medical errors.[1,2,3] Effective teamwork and communication are especially important to ensure optimal patient care in the ICU, as multidisciplinary teams work together to care for extremely vulnerable patients.

Objectives: To determine whether running in situ simulations could objectively improve teamwork and communication in the ICU.

Methods: Multidisciplinary teams consisting of residents, nurses, and respiratory therapists performed in situ simulations in the ICU. Simulations involved a 10-minute case followed by a debrief. During the debrief teamwork and communication issues were resolved, and the importance of the use of SBAR and transparent thinking was stressed. Teams were evaluated during the simulation by two observers using 8 components of the Clinical Teamwork Scale [4] (CTS) during a pre-intervention phase (0 returning participants) and a post-intervention phase (1,2, or 3 returning participants).

Results: All 8 components of the CTS that were evaluated showed significant improvement (p...

Conclusion: Performing in situ simulations is effective at improving teamwork and communication among multidisciplinary teams in the ICU. Implementing regular in situ simulation training in the ICU could therefore potentially help address previously cited safety concerns over shortfalls in effective teamwork and communication.