

DO WE NEED TO START EARLIER.....?

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Link to conference theme

There is increasing evidence of the need for collaboration across departments, between professions, and sometimes between organisations.

Aim

To pilot an inter-professional inter-organisation simulation to provide a foundation for developing an undergraduate interprofessional patient safety program.

Background

Communication failure within and between health professionals is associated with poor quality care and risk to patient safety¹. Using simulation as an educational strategy may enhance the development of communication skills² that impact on decision making and patient safety. In 2013 the quality and safety module convenor from the Christchurch Medical School and nursing educators from Christchurch Polytechnic (now ARA Institute of Canterbury) discussed developing a quality and safety session for 5th year medical students and final year nursing students.

Intervention

Ethical approval was obtained in 2015. The educational intervention included a simulation of common errors in a ward environment and a dynamic inter-professional simulation of a patient with a medical and surgical condition. There were two inter-professional simulation sessions, and a medical student control group. Pre- and post-testing was undertaken with the Readiness for Interprofessional Learning Scale³ and the Situational Awareness Global Assessment Tool⁴.

Outcomes

The following results will be discussed:

- (i) Attitudes to interprofessional learning
- (ii) Students understanding of their own and other health professionals' roles, and the overlap between these roles;
- (iii) Levels of situational awareness and patterns of communication within and between professions at the undergraduate level.

This study provides a basis to guide future teaching and learning practices for health care professionals.

Conflicts of Interest

Nil

References

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- ²Aggarwal, R., & Darzi, A. (2011). Simulation to enhance patient safety: Why aren't we there yet? *Chest*, 140(4), 854-858. doi: 10.1378/chest.11-0728.
- ³Endersley,)1988). Situational Awareness Global Assessment Tool (SAGAT)
- ⁴Parsell & Blighs (1999) Readiness for Interprofessional Learning Scale (RIPLS).