Simulation training of medical emergencies in the community

Alicia Watts,1 Emer Forde,1 Clare Wedderburn,1 Aurelia Butcher¹, James Bromilow,2 Samantha Scallan3

GP Education Unit, Wessex Deanery
1GP Education Unit, Wessex Deanery; 2Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust 3Wessex GP Education Research Lead

Introduction
Life-threatening medical emergencies are rare in General Practice, and this rarity can provide a challenge in keeping up to date, and maintaining confidence. Simulation training provides a safe environment to practice rare events and refresh skills without risk to patients.

Aims
• To improve confidence and knowledge of the participants in managing emergency situations and using emergency equipment
• To highlight any potential patient safety issues within a practice
• To improve team working within a practice

Method
A Training session was designed which included 5 emergency scenarios, two common scenarios (asthma and chest pain), and 3 less common (anaphylaxis, seizure and meningococcal septicaemia). The sessions were low-fidelity and included adult and paediatric scenarios. Group discussion post simulation was held to discuss learning points. The sessions were held in 2 separate settings, at a teaching session within a classroom setting or within a general practice.

Results
Participants’ confidence levels in managing emergency scenarios and of using emergency equipment increased after the training. 84/86 participants would like this kind of training again.

Results: Clinical learning outcomes
• Up to date guidance on giving benzylpenicillin in suspected meningitis
• Check glucose levels in a fitting patient
• Call 999 early
• Clinical features and management of acute severe asthma

Results: Practical learning outcomes
Training within the workplace provided many practical learning outcomes and highlighted potential patient safety issues. Examples were:
• Not knowing the location of emergency equipment, or how to use them
• Not knowing the key code for the door where emergency drugs were stocked
• Not stocking rectal diazepam
• Not carrying a glucose monitor in doctors bag
• Knowing how to call for help within the practice

Conclusions
Sessions provided participants opportunity to update practical skills and improve team working. Participant’s confidence in managing medical emergencies increased and they were reminded of the importance of assessing acutely unwell patient’s using the ABC approach. Simulation sessions are a safe and practical method of maintaining necessary skills. Training in the workplace allows clinical risk assessment of the working environment.

References

For Further Information please contact: Dr Alicia Watts
GP Education Unit, Royal Bournemouth House, Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, UK
Email: awb03@doctors.org.uk