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Structured SIM training in an emergency department to improve staffs use of non-technical skills

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Technical skills are highly depending on Non-Technical Skills (NTS) when treating acute critical ill patients. A vital role in safety is the ability to adapt information, to maintain focus in decisions making. Furthermore, staff have to be able to anticipate, identify and prevent errors. In our study, we investigated if SIM training could improve the NTS in teams of physicians and nurses from a relative newly established department (ED) with 120 health workers. The goal was to investigate the effects of SIM training with NTS. The study was a prospective interventional study using “in situ” simulation scenarios inspired from cases with acute critical ill patients. Staff (N=70) were trained in the use of the ABCDE approach, closed loop and structured communication. Mixed groups of 5-7 physicians and nurses worked in three simulation scenarios on manikin through 6-7 hours. Each scenario was debriefed using the description, analysis and application method. The staff made a pre- and post-self-evaluation on their NTS, rating the ability to use the NTS on a 5 step Likert scale. Data were tested with paired double-sided students T-test. After SIM, most of the participants reported an increase in self-efficacy with significance in 6 out of 12 questions, among these increased awareness of their role in teams. The facilitators observed that the teams became aware of the tools implicit in the NTS. We conclude that SIM training, for a majority of the participants, was an efficient tool to train Non-Technical Skills. Planning a follow-up study.

Biography

Christina Oersted graduated from Nykoebing nursing school in 2000. Facilitator from CAMES. Diploma in health professional education. Working as an educational nurse in the ED at Nykoebing Hospital.

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