

Mobile simulation training for rural health providers

Format: Research Studies - Oral and Poster Presentations

Topic: New Technologies and INNOVATION

Title

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Introduction & Aims

Simulation is an excellent way for health care worker to train their skills in a safe environment. But sadly, learning with simulations in healthcare is usually not available to professionals. Contributing factors to this problem are the lack of knowledge and poor equipment combined with high education costs and time shortage in medical teams. We have developed a mobile simulation unit («SIM mobile») that will enable all medical teams in primary healthcare access to modern simulation equipment. «SIM mobile» is a mobile education unit which brings state of the art, hands-on training, using high fidelity human patient simulators, to prehospital and hospital professionals. The «SIM mobile» is a 16 metres long trailer with two simulation spaces.

Methods

We have used «SIM mobile» to conduct simulations in over 20 different healthcare teams (N = 100) in Slovenia. They were all at least 50 km away from CHC Ljubljana. At the end of training the participants filled out a question form about their previous experiences with use of simulations in healthcare, their need for this kind of education and availability of this kind of education. At the beginning and in the end we have measured the intake and outcome knowledge of every individual. Total training time was 120 hours and was used 100 % of the time by the participants of the study. The simulation that was carried out was the management of acute medical emergency – anafilaksy.

Results & Discussion

All of the participants have said that the physical environment of «SIM mobile» was very comfortable and appropriate for training. 10% of the participants have said that they have the access to simulation based learning in their workplace, but the equipment is too old and not realistic enough. All of the participants have agreed that the «SIM mobile» is a great program for renewal of knowledge for experienced doctor and nurse. It is also a great learning tool for a beginner doctor and nurse to prepare themselves for work with real patients. Pre- and post-evaluation experiment of qualification indicates, that the level of knowledge in simulation is higher for 60 %. This study has showed that the use of «SIM mobile» can be practical and efficient for maintaining proper medical team education available. «SIM mobile» was successfully used in this study across all of Slovenia to ensure proper education for medical teams in primary healthcare for 20 CHC in rural environment.

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