

Simulation in a novel environment: an interdisciplinary pool rescue

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Background: Basic life support (BLS) training is an annual competency requirement for clinical staff working in the public hospital setting. Current BLS training involves learning in a land-based setting. Aquatic physiotherapy is an integral part of rehabilitation for many patients; clinical staff in this setting require additional skills in the event of an emergency. This simulation was designed for the interdisciplinary team to practise emergency procedures in the aquatic physiotherapy setting.

Methods: A **simulated emergency** scenario in the aquatic physiotherapy setting was designed. Prior to the simulation, basic pool rescue procedures were practised by the physiotherapists and allied health assistant. Participants in the simulation were: physiotherapists, allied health assistant and the Emergency Team (physicians, nurses and support services assistants). Following the simulation, debriefing was facilitated by an emergency physician highly experienced in post-simulation debriefing. Post-simulation written feedback was also obtained from participants.

Results: The interdisciplinary team training was well received. Three main themes emerged from the learning experience: (1) the importance of leadership and teamwork in an emergency situation (2) respect for different roles within the interdisciplinary team in the emergency situation (3) the desire to have more simulated interdisciplinary learning experiences.

Discussion: This learning experience demonstrates the value of simulation-based training to promote new learning, communication and collaboration skills within the interdisciplinary team. As a result of the simulated exercise, some changes to local emergency procedures were implemented, ultimately resulting in better patient outcomes. It is planned to run this learning exercise annually.