

VIRTUAL NEONATAL SIMULATION: CHALLENGES AND OUTCOMES

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION: PRE-COVID STRATEGY

- Women's and Children's Care Group – one of the biggest group with a variety of nursing and medical training needs
- Training plans with SimMums and SimNewBs in place for simulation training and competency based assessments for medical devices training for newly qualified nursing and medical staff.
- Simulation – what is it and how effective

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

- Advantages
 - Practical, hands on and hence more interactive
 - Clinician derived and driven
 - Effective debriefing and measured output e.g. 3D and DEBRIEF
 - Real time customisations to cater specific needs
- Disadvantages
 - Sim Fatigue
 - Space and time limitations
 - Human Factor and feedback discrepancies

DURING PANDEMIC

- Challenges faced
 - The practice of Social distancing
 - Reduced number of attendees
 - Frequency dropped from 8-10/year to 2-4/year
 - Additional H/S and IPC Risk assessments to put in place
 - Restricted use of dedicated Sim lab.
 - Limitations with existing training methods
- Solution
 - Rising training needs due to backlog, refresher as well as newly employed staff
 - Temporary set up – On the unit
 - Define and design of Virtual Simulation, Training Videos, Webex training
 - Quick tutorials on how to use the online training for users and trainers
- Virtual Simulation – AR, MR and XR

DURING PANDEMIC

- Advantages
 - Available anytime, anywhere for attendees.
 - Ease of set up
 - No real limit for number of attendees
 - Machine driven automatic feedback – less discrepancies.
- Disadvantages
 - Inability to customise a training plan on the fly
 - Inability to deliver in situ training to new doctors and nurses
 - Invest more time and resources during initial set as not many options are available for neonatal virtual training
 - Less user interactive due to virtual

STUDENT AND FACULTY RESPONSE

- Change is not always easy
- Frustration and unfamiliarity when using the online/virtual simulation tools
- Difficulty in formal assessment and objective tracking for individual attendee
- Sometime, not easy to focus
- Discontinuation of training mid session due to internet connectivity issues

POST-COVID STRATEGY

- Will we go back to normality in the near future?
- Preparation to be future proof:
 - Creating content such as user interactive videos, real time virtual simulations
 - Creating guidance documents for clinical trainers and students
 - Horizon Scanning: Looking at products like vSim, Virtie and VR goggles to create and execute training plans
 - Collaborations with other NHS Trusts and Neonatal networks to streamline and unify the training strategy

THANK YOU.

