

Why Realism Counts

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Aims

NetworkZ is a simulation programme that aims to provide safe and equitable outcomes for all patients by providing realistic team training. NetworkZ runs in situ within the clinical environment with the local multidisciplinary team. The programme utilises realistic and functional models, local equipment, and highly realistic blood product. This provides an immersive team training experience that promotes buy in and maximises participant learning.

Background

NetworkZ is conducted in the Operating Room (OR), Emergency Department (ED) and Post Anaesthetic Recovery Unit (PACU), with a focus on the management of emergencies, trauma, and resuscitation. Since its inception in 2016, NetworkZ has trained over 3000 multidisciplinary healthcare staff.

Intervention or activity

The sessions are run in situ within the clinical environment that provides improved participant buy-in, as local staff are not hindered by artifacts of a solely simulation environment (e.g. equipment location). It also aids the recruitment of the local multidisciplinary team, which provides craft groups to interact as they ordinarily would in emergency situations.

Locally made realistic and functional models are applied to the SimMan® 3G that engage the multidisciplinary team. Their functional nature mean that surgeons can incise and “fix” the specified problem. The models are silicone based, reusable and repairable. Bespoke blood pumps and realistic simulated blood product are used to aid the realism of the models and are particularly useful in the haemorrhaging cases.

Outcomes

The immersive and realistic NetworkZ sessions promote buy in from the multidisciplinary team. As a result, their behaviours more accurately reflect their ‘normal’ practice. From here, NetworkZ can identify latent safety threats (LSTs) within the clinical environment. Some of the identified LSTs include communication gaps within teams, individual gaps in knowledge and skills, staffing and skill mix, equipment availability, and the availability of cognitive aids for decision-making (Weller et al., 2021).