9.22 Practice Makes Progress – Importance of Simulation Teaching in Respiratory Medicine and Patient Care. A QI Project to Improve Pneumothorax Management and Chest Drain care among NCHDs.

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Modern search engines have revolutionised access to study materials, but arguably nothing can replace hands-on training when it comes to life-saving interventions. The main objectives of our study were to evaluate and ensure competency of NCHD pneumothorax management and chest drain apparatus in emergency and non-emergency situations.

Initially, a survey was conducted to assess pneumothorax management awareness and chest-drain apparatus care among NCHDs involved in acute medical take. The survey outcomes were then used to propose simulation teaching sessions. Multiple stakeholders were involved including:

- Mid-West Intern Network
- RCPI-BST Regional Director
- Department of Medicine Teaching Co-ordinator

Respiratory Consultants delivered lectures on physiology and basic management, and practical sessions were provided by respiratory registrars.

91 NCHDs attended these sessions. Re-survey reflected promising feedback and re-enforced the importance of simulation teaching sessions:

1. Confidence levels increased from 21% to 80%
2. Optimum placement for tension pneumothorax needle decompression increased from 44% to 92%
3. Correct Identification of safety triangle borders for chest-tube insertion increased from 42% to 96%
4. Correct water-seal management for 3 chamber chest-tube apparatus was recognised by 97% of NCHDs in the re-survey, compared with 46% initially.

Results were presented to stakeholders, who decided to incorporate these sessions officially in department of medicine teaching curriculum.

Conflict Of Interest: None to declare.