Preparing Anaesthetic consultants for revalidation through simulation: A new course in Yorkshire.

Introduction/Background

In district general hospitals, where a dedicated obstetric anaesthetic on-call rota may not exist, general consultant anaesthetists find themselves leading and managing obstetric crises, often with very little active preparation for this role. Recent high profile cases have heightened the expectations for consultants to revalidate and simulation offers the opportunity to refresh skills and train in a safe environment.

Description

We have created a high fidelity immersive simulation program aimed specifically at non-obstetric consultant anaesthetists, maximising their skills in managing both common as well as rare obstetric emergencies. Our day long simulation event revolves around a busy day on a labour ward and starts off with a realistic multidisciplinary ward round. The course is limited to six delegates with each delegate participating in thirty minute scenarios followed by thirty minutes of video assisted debrief. Each scenario has been scripted with detailed information and storyboards for actors and team members (obstetricians, midwives and operating department practitioners) designed to make it realistic. All six scenario objectives meet the recommendations highlighted by CMACE (Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries) and reflect the highest trends in reversible maternal morbidity and mortality e.g. poorly treated sepsis, pre-eclampsia and amniotic fluid embolism. A communication challenge appropriate for consultants is embedded in each scenario e.g. the non-English speaking cardiac patient, major Obstetric Haemorrhage in a Jehovah’s Witness, a morbidly obese parturient refusing an epidural.

Conclusion

The course design has been completed through a joint collaboration with obstetric anaesthetists around the Yorkshire region and was successfully run on the 5th of November 2013 with excellent feedback. Comments received were as follows “An excellent day with six really good scenarios,” “I now feel more confident” and “Thank you!” We have been awarded 5 CPD (Continuous Professional Development) points by the Royal College of Anaesthetists of United Kingdom and are officially a nationally approved event. The course is set to run twice yearly with a potential expansion in making it a 2 day event. The next scheduled programme date is on the 3rd April 2014.

References