Improving Patient Care Through Paediatric Simulation and Multi-Disciplinary Resuscitation Training Based Upon Previous Serious Incidents at a District General Hospital

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Context
The quality improvement project was undertaken at a District General Hospital and included staff who care for seriously sick or injured children including doctors and nurses working in general paediatrics, accident and emergency and anaesthetics. The appropriate initial assessment and resuscitation of serious ill and injured children together with on-going reassessment and emergency management are essential for reducing morbidity and mortality.

Problem
There was no integrated multi-disciplinary team (MDT) paediatric resuscitation training and several paediatric serious incidents had involved more than one department. Simulation training increases the acquisition of skills and provides a platform to review performance and make errors without compromising patient safety. Both the Department of Health and RCPCH recognise the importance of simulation training in improving patient safety through reducing human and system errors. High fidelity manikins can be monitored which significantly adds to their realism.

Assessment of problem and analysis of its causes
A retrospective review was undertaken by a paediatric trainee of all the paediatric serious incidents during a ten year period to identify common themes and key recommendations. The development of MDT resuscitation training was one of the principle recommendations to improve the emergency assessment and care provided to children.

Intervention
MDT paediatric resuscitation training sessions involving healthcare assistants, nurses, doctors and other allied healthcare professionals from general paediatrics, accident and emergency and anaesthetics were planned several months in advance through a consultation process. Dates and times were chosen to maximise trainee availability and minimise disruption to routine services. For MDT training in accident and emergency, strategies were implemented to ensure patient safety at all times. Resuscitation officers provided support and resuscitation equipment. The hospital switch board was notified so a simulated paediatric crash call could be initiated through the hospital paging system. Scenarios were developed based upon previous paediatric serious incidents to review whether key recommendations had been successfully implemented and sustained. The focus was on familiarisation with paediatric resuscitation equipment, drugs and guidelines in real time as well as teamwork, communication and leadership skills and dynamics between and within the different specialties. A pilot paediatric simulation MDT training session was also undertaken in the Education Centre.

Strategy for change
MDT paediatric resuscitation training was coordinated through the paediatric and emergency departments as well as the hospital resuscitation committee. Anonymous feedback through questionnaires was collected from participants.

Measurement of improvement
The MDT paediatric resuscitation and simulation training received very positive feedback: “Excellent scenario, felt more real than other simulated scenarios I have attended.” Participants found the MDT simulation training much more realistic than weekly departmental resuscitation training with 79% strongly recommending the simulation training compared with just 33% for the weekly departmental training.

Effects of changes
MDT paediatric resuscitation training was successfully implemented. A business case was developed for the purchase of a paediatric simulation manikin to improve the reality of the training.

Lessons learnt
MDT paediatric resuscitation training is a very valuable tool for improving teamwork and paediatric resuscitation skills. Paediatric high fidelity simulation training can enhance this further through providing a more realistic experience.

Message for others
MDT resuscitation training should be routine practice in district general hospitals. Basing scenarios on previous serious incidents is a useful way to review previous key recommendations. A business case can be developed by demonstrating improved experience through a pilot high fidelity simulation trainer.

Promoting Quality in a Community Paediatric Department

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Context
Work was done within a busy community paediatric department. The work looked at how we assess and promote quality.

Problem
A lack of focus and evidence of quality.

Assessment of problem and analysis of its causes
Within the department we had completed audits over the years on an adhoc basis, there were guidelines and pathways which were used but they were not always up to date. There was no universal way documentation could be accessed to see what had been done when, or when it needed repeating/updating. This meant that there was variability in the service we provided.

Intervention
Initially we spent 2 days collecting data about the quality work being done already. Next we planned four interventions.

1. We created a database of audits, who was responsible for them and when they needed repeating. The database also noted if there were protocols and audit tools and if the audit had been presented.

2. We formed a centralised set of online files based on the current CQC standards. Supporting evidence was filed making it accessible to everyone in the department. Audit reports, pathways, patient information sheets, induction material and department protocols can be easily found.

3. We asked each member of the department to join a “champions” group focused on different areas of change. New trainees in the department are allocated to a group. These included:-

- Staff Wellbeing
- ASD
- ADHD
- Patient Voice
- Expectations

1. We organised a monthly “quality” meeting. This is an opportunity for the department to present any work so that we can all learn and share. Changes can be ratified quickly so consistent high quality care can be provided.

Strategy for change
The most important strategy was encouraging each team member to feel responsibility for quality. An away day allowed us to develop a shared vision and the champion

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