

SETTING UP A UROLOGY EMERGENCY SKILLS COURSE

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NEED

Exposure to Urology is under-represented at medical school and studies have shown that up to a third do not feel confident managing urological emergencies¹. Despite this, Urology accounts for 20% of acute surgical referrals and can affect non-surgical inpatients at any time. Without a dedicated Urology F1 or SHO, much of the on call registrars time was taken to manage these, often simple, emergencies. Urology skills are not difficult to learn and by increasing exposure in a controlled environment with highly experienced trainers we hoped to improve attendee's confidence at managing these common situations and reduce the burden upon a busy acute urology service.

BRIEF

We wanted the course to be free, convenient (not requiring study leave) and open to all allied health professionals. The faculty for the course were the Urology registrars providing training in 4 areas lasting 30 minutes each.

Equipment and facilities were provided by the Sandford Education Centre, with invaluable help and advice from Sam Taylor. Catheterisation models were provided by Mediplus. All attendees completed a feedback form, certificate & CPD points.

STATIONS

1. Simple & complex catheterisation
2. Suprapubic catheterisation
3. Haematuria management and bladder washout
4. Nephrostomy management

EVENT

20 people attended the course on May 29th.

It ran from 6.30-9pm to coincide with people finishing their day shift.

RESULTS

We received excellent feedback across all the questions. There were a wide range of attendees from our Urology Sister to junior doctors.

In particular, 100% scored all the individual stations and the course overall as good or excellent and 100% of attendees would recommend the course to a colleague.

20% felt the sessions were too short.

COMMENTS

"Would be great if other specialties could offer the same"

"Excellent session, hugely beneficial"

"Good mixture of practical and mini lectures"

"Enjoyed trying suprapubic catheters"

"Handouts with top tips"



PLANS

The course was really well received. However, the majority of attendees already had an interest in Urology. We intend to run the course three times per year and would ideally like to see more staff from the Emergency Department and Community present as these front line staff will be able to make a real difference for patients and prevent hospital admissions. To ensure the course continues to run we have made it the responsibility of the core surgical trainees to organise it. This will be a great experience for them and will help with national selection and registrar interviews. Finally, everyone involved really enjoyed themselves!

References: 1. Derbyshire L, O'Flynn K. Exposure to Urology in UK Medical Students. Time for change? *Int J Surg* 9 (2011) 495-546