

## **Multi-disciplinary in-situ simulation: A collaborative approach to Advanced Life Support education and training.**

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**Objective:** To present how an innovative approach to Advanced Life Support (ALS) education and training day, can assist Emergency department (ED) staff to improve their ALS performance and team work.

**Main points:** Western Health (WH) services the healthcare needs of a culturally, linguistically and economically diverse community. The acuity of patients in ED is high and ALS measures are regularly performed. During these events, it is common for the ED staff to assemble in the Resuscitation cubicle to support and assist the patient and the resuscitation team, and within a short period of time, the resuscitation cubicle can become crowded and chaotic, role definitions hazy, and communication patterns break down. Thus potentially diminishing the efficiency of the resuscitation team.

According to contemporary ALS training, appropriating a department's unique working environment, creates high fidelity learning, better retention of skills and knowledge, fosters teamwork, and ultimately maximise patient outcomes. Therefore, to improve professional practices and maximise patient outcomes WH's ED Clinical Nurse Educator, ED Medical Educator, Simulation Co-coordinator and Team, decided to develop an in-situ simulated ALS exercise in one of ED's Resuscitation cubicles.

Development of the in-situ exercise took several months of discussions and planning, and included procuring support from the organisation, ED Nurse Unit Manager and Medical Director.

On the training day, the learning objectives included revision of the Australian Resuscitation Council ALS Guidelines (2008)<sup>1</sup> and national practice standards; and increasing staff awareness of role assignment, leadership and followership, and closed-loop communication.

**Conclusion:** Four senior ED nurses and doctors attended the ALS education and training day; all participants considered the in-situ exercise to be an edifying experience; during their debrief participants emphasised how the exercise had aligned their expectations, and extended their respect for their peers.

By supporting this innovative initiative, WH demonstrated their commitment to the delivery of best care practices to patients and the community; and to the education, training and professional development of their medical and nursing staff.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Resuscitation Council, Advanced Life Support/Immediate Life Support. [http://www.resus.org.au/als\\_ils](http://www.resus.org.au/als_ils). [Accessed May 8th, 2014].

Since the training day, resuscitations in the ED have demonstrated a calmer environment, greater role clarity and leadership, improved closed-loop communication, and a more integrated and collaborative approach to ALS by medical and nursing staff.