

Care of the elderly simulation-based teaching for the multidisciplinary team

Improving geriatric care via simulation based teaching sessions in two District General Hospitals
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Introduction

Geriatric medicine is inherently complex and requires multi-disciplinary integration.

Simulation-based training has been recognised by the **Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians' Training Board** and the **Royal College of Nursing** as a method to enhance learning and improve patient outcomes.

Objective

This project aimed to develop a **multi-professional** simulation programme within care of the elderly to mimic the multi-professional clinical practice that takes place on geriatric hospital wards.

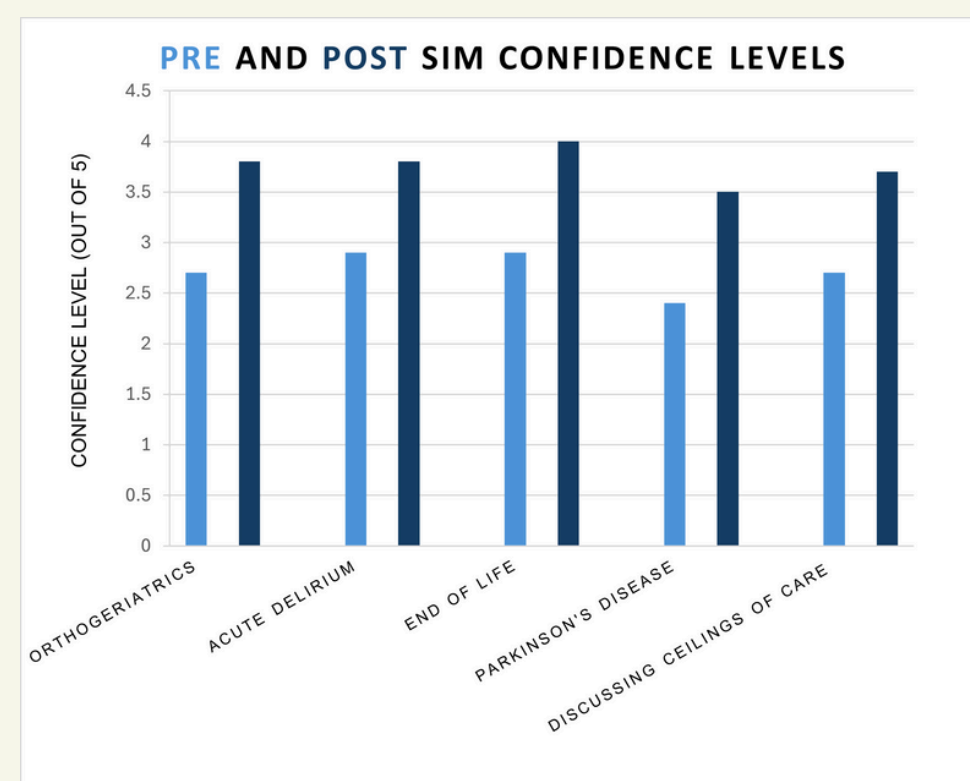


Methods

A total of **ten half-day** simulation sessions have been run across 2 sites in 2 years. The sessions were attended by **57 participants**, including 24 doctors, 20 nurses, 7 nursing students, 4 healthcare assistants and 2 physician associates. **Quantitative** and **qualitative** questionnaires conducted pre- and post-simulation were used to assess confidence levels and attitudes towards simulation.

Results

Both pre- and post- simulation, candidates had the most confidence in managing end of life situations, and least confidence in managing acutely unwell patients with Parkinson's disease. Confidence levels for managing common geriatric scenarios **increased by an average of 21%** after candidates participated in the simulation session.



Thematic analysis highlighted the importance of collaboration within a team to enhance a sense of belonging, and pro-activeness of staff to highlight deteriorating patients to colleagues and family members.

"In managing the unwell patient it is ok to step back and have a think 'what am I missing'"

"Communicate early and often, involve the family even more"

Conclusion

Simulation that mimics the ward environment is an effective tool in increasing the confidence of the multi-disciplinary team looking after geriatric patients through exposing candidates to complex situations and increasing awareness of the roles within the team.

Future Recommendations

- Widen access to the simulation, which will involve working with **key members** and **stakeholders** of each profession
- **Adapt** the scenarios in order to make them accessible to other members of the MDT (e.g. occupational therapists and physiotherapists)
- **Develop further** scenarios that focus on specific clinical areas within the Trust that need improvement (e.g. thrombolysis)

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