

Hands-on simulation training in safe learning environment: Is an international congress the right place?

First experience of multinational and multicultural high fidelity simulation workshop for health care professionals during an international paediatric congress

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Background

The European Society for Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care (ESPNIC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and advancing the art and science of paediatric and neonatal intensive care. Acknowledging that simulation-based medical education is extensively used particularly in critical care area, ESPNIC implemented simulation training workshop during annual European Academy of Pediatric Societies (EAPS) congress in Paris from 30th October to 3rd November 2018.

Research Question/ Educational Goal

Our aim as an experienced international simulation team was to provide safe and productive simulation experience to multinational interested EAPS attendees during 90 min slot (pre-briefing – scenario – debriefing). We focused on explaining about concept of simulation, possibilities for learning and teaching as well as on international collaboration.

Proposed approach to addressing the question or goal

Three months ahead the congress an international group of eleven simulation instructors prepared the scenarios during one webcam and two face to face meetings. High fidelity simulations were held in English and French in order to increase the number of participants. Simulation workshop was established in dedicated area with separate simulating and debriefing area. Each day during the congress simulation workshop hosted four simulation sessions. Each session lasted for two hours and contained two different simulation scenarios. Four simulation instructors were dedicated for each session: One was responsible for induction, two were running the scenarios and one was facilitating debriefing. Each session had a maximum of eight attendees. At the end of each day we held a meeting with the simulation instructors to highlight the difficulties encountered during the day and encourage further suggestions.

Results

Eighty three people from forty countries participated in the workshop. In total 77/83 (93%) filled out the evaluation form. Prebriefing has been evaluated positively by the large majority of attendees (96%) and 92% agreed that the learning environment was safe. Debriefing has strongly contributed to learning (85%) and has been considered useful to verbalize and explain feelings for 83% of participants. Non-native speakers the scenario and the debriefing in another language underlined their difficulties in less than 3% of cases.

Conundrum or difficulty encountered

Overall, the instructors and attendees agreed that simulation in vast international audience was feasible and very successful increasing the medical knowledge alongside with understanding and accepting international differences. Time constraints have been perceived by both instructors and attendees as challenging. Heterogeneity of conference delegates occurred on a couple occasions, which was felt as a threat to safe learning environment by the instructors. That has been addressed in timely and friendly manner by instructors during the debrief.

Questions for discussion

Is it possible to run and debrief scenarios adequately in English for non-native speakers?

Is it safe to mix attendees from different clinical and cultural backgrounds?

Is a congress a safe learning environment for the attendees?