In Situ Electronic Health Record: Enhanced Simulation to Improve Sepsis Care

Amanda Gargus MSN, RN¹, Chase Cox MSW², April Belle MSN, RN, CCNS¹, Mary Grace Cox MPH, RN³, Marjorie Lee White MD, MPPM, MA, FAAP, FACEP ¹,²,³

¹UAB Office of Interprofessional Simulation for Innovative Clinical Practice, ²University of Alabama School of Medicine, ³UAB Medicine

Rating: 4 of 5 stars

**Background**

Decreasing sepsis mortality remains a top priority driven by the Surviving Sepsis Campaign. The Office of Interprofessional Simulation (OIPS) collaborated with UAB Care to offer an in-situ (on site) tabletop simulation experience. These simulations test hospital systems regarding simulated sepsis events utilizing the electronic health record. The goals of the simulations are to enhance clinician awareness, decrease time to sepsis recognition, standardize care, improve compliance with the UAB Code Sepsis process and provide data for process improvements.

**Description/Methods**

- A simulation was developed based on patients on a general medical/surgical unit.
- A timeline and set of expected actions were carefully crafted.
- The patient record was created in the EHR to add fidelity to the simulations.

**Scenario:**

A patient is admitted the night before with a GI Bleed. The patient is stable, but then the patient’s status changes. Caregivers must react as they would if the simulated medical record was their patient.

**Setting/Participants**

Setting: Various locations within the hospital

Participants:
- 33 Staff Nurses
- 1 Nurse Manager
- 1 Attending Physician
- 2 Residents in Internal Medicine
- 2 Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners
- 1 Patient Care Technician
- 1 Pharmacy Student

**Evaluation/Results**

Evaluations were completed by the participants. Each evaluation used a Likert scale and statements regarding the simulation experience with the options of agree, neutral, or disagree. Learners were asked open-ended questions to describe what they felt was beneficial about the simulation and what they felt could be improved.

Sample Evaluation Comments:

- “Better understanding of the EWS and q-sepsis”
- “Use of Power Plan was useful!”
- “Learning what I need to put in the providers pager”
- “Realistic EMR”
- “Practicing with RN’s”
- “Relaxed environment, great for absorbing the information”

Conclusions

The in situ sepsis tabletop simulations provided a unique opportunity to practice safe care in a real environment. It enabled learners to continue to improve familiarity with their work environment and processes, employ evidence-based practices, and improve interprofessional teamwork.