

# Using Simulation to Build Better Trauma Teams

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# Trauma injury

## Statistics

- 1 in 20 hospitalisations in Australia
- Principle cause of mortality, morbidity and permanent disability for people  $\leq 45$  years
- Thus a major source of health care costs

(Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW), 2010)

## Time Critical

- Requires the input of multiple professional disciplines across the health care team
- Thus creating the “perfect storm”

# Trauma Patient / Team Journey

# Modern Health Care System

- Long tradition of siloed education.
- Professional hierarchies (Intra/Inter disciplinary)
- Team Culture

## Creating

- Dysfunctional communication patterns
- Loss of critical information
- Professions working against team collaboration
- Possible conflict

# Errors in Health Care

## Preventable Deaths

- Estimated 44 000 to 88 000 in America
- 2.5 % of trauma deaths (2594 trauma deaths over 9 years)

## Errors Linked to :-

- Breakdowns in team communication
- In-appropriate co-ordination of care
- Delays in procedures, diagnosis
- Inadequate or missed cares

(Kohn, Corrigan, Donaldson, 2000; Gruen, Jurkovich, McIntyre, Foy, & Maier, 2006)

# Preventing Errors

## Interprofessional Education

Shown significant improvement across many health care settings

Demonstrated Improvements in:-

- Observable teamwork behaviours
- Collaboration
- Understanding of roles
- Shared positive learning experience

*(Capella, et al., 2010; Masters, O'Toole & Jodon, 2012)*

# Interprofessional Education

- Origin - aviation industry



## World Health Organisation (WHO)

“Inter-professional teams are collaborative, and their education occurs with two or more professions at a time, to learn from and about each other to enable collaboration to improve patient care and outcomes”

(WHO, 2010)



## Australian Learning and Teaching Council

‘Interprofessional Health Education in Australia:  
The Way Forward’



# Simulation and Trauma Training

- Assist with integration of skills and knowledge, team communication
- Improved confidence, critical thinking and judgement
- Opportunity to gain competency in their own role
- Shared learning experience to develop mutual respect and shared goals
- Opportunity to plan established roles and responsibilities
- Safe environment to
  - Develop communication skills
  - Practice leadership skills required to monitor and prevent errors

(Simmons, & Sherwood, 2010; Decker, Sportsman, Puetz, & Billings, 2008; Fountain, & Alfred, 2009; Hunt, Shilkofski, Stavroudis & Nelson, 2007).



# Our Project

## Setting

- Metropolitan Tertiary Referral Hospital
- 2011 –
  - 521 Trauma Patients
  - 246 Multi-Trauma (Apache III Data)
- Patient coded according to admitting doctor under hospital trauma service code.

“Trauma Surgeon” – no licenced speciality in Australia - Royal College of Surgeons

# Establish Interest Group

## “Trauma Interest Group”

- Initially Nursing Focused
- Covering all acute clinical care areas (e.g. ED, OT, ICU, Trauma HDU, Orthopaedics etc.)
- Other clinical support services (VTE CNC, Blood Bank, Acute Pain etc.)
- Other Medical and Allied Health invited
- Medical Director endorsement given

# Trauma Interest Group

- SWOT analysis – Acute Phase of Patient Journey
- Key areas of opportunity identified
- Terms of reference formulated

## Define Purpose:-

*“To provide a forum for health professionals involved in the management of trauma to address issues relating to trauma management, trauma research and education across the continuum of care”.*

# Education Opportunity

## Strength

- Current clinical knowledge amongst both nursing and medical staff.

## Opportunity

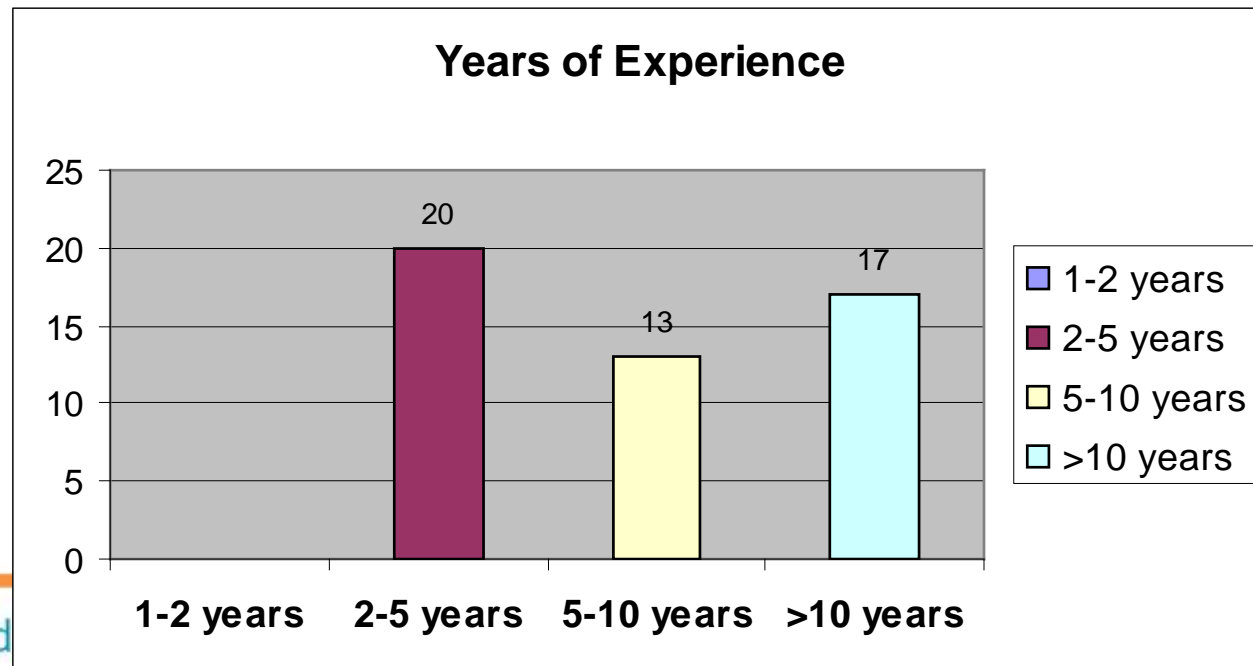
- Improve collaboration between departments and professional groups
- Improve team communication
- Identify common themes across departments to set priority areas for ongoing improvements

# Steps Taken

1. Set clear learning objectives set (departmental and overall)
2. Develop patient scenario to meet these objectives (reflect patient journey)
3. Consult simulation co-ordinator
4. Consult team communication experts
5. Gain medical support
6. Gain hierarchical organisational support

# Target Audience

- Important to understand
- Senior Clinician
- Limit 5 per clinical area
- Relevant Medical components



# The Scenario Objectives

## Clinical

- Difficult airway
- Open Chest wound
- Pelvic # - Open book

## Communication

- Prioritisation of care
- Co-ordination of various specialities out-of-hours
- Co-ordination of resources in various departments to manage this and other patients out-of-hours
- Handover processes between acute departments and various treating teams (medical and nursing)

ED





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# ICU

# Debriefing

- Vital to allow the participants an opportunity to reflect and integrate new skills and knowledge into practice
- Must be directed by original learning objectives set
- Conducted after each simulation (ie after ED simulation and again after OT & ICU)
- Lead by clinical expert from each clinical area

Waxman, 2010

# Outcomes

## Brainstorming

- Occurred as a natural progression with senior clinical experts
- Included in subsequent programs
- Utilised to identify other opportunity for change for the 'Trauma Interest Group' to target

## Other Teaching

- VTE Management
- Massive Transfusion Protocol





# Challenges

- Time
  - Educators
  - Staff off-line Time
- Medical Buy-in
- Physical Resource
- Simulation Resources
  - Access to equipment
  - Access to Sim trained Staff

# Where to from here

- Expand the simulation to the pre-hospital care
- Continue work of 'Trauma Interest Group' to address clinical issues raised
- Utilise innovative senior clinicians from the workshop to work at a local level to address some of these areas for improvement

# Questions





# Contact Details

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