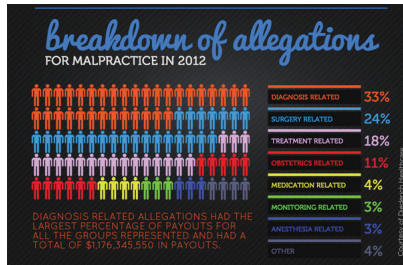


Clinical Simulation Training Minimizes Risk to Patients While Building Caregivers' Cognitive, Collaborative, and Communication Skills



THE PROBLEM

When it comes to healthcare risk management and patient safety, hospitals across the U.S. are drawing on a variety of approaches in their efforts to reach the best outcomes. However, one of the most effective approaches—one that can reduce risk, as well as reduce costs and help teams strengthen technical, cognitive, and communication skills—has thus far been underutilized: clinical simulation training.

Many hospitals are still unaware of how far the wide-reaching potential of simulation training has come since its inception in the 1960s, when it was primarily used as a technical education tool. While it does add significant value when used in this way, there is much more to it than teaching or reinforcing physical or technical skills and allowing learners to practice procedures on mannequins, hone surgical techniques, or mimic crisis situations in a simulation lab.

THE SOLUTION

Research has shown that video capture of simulated events helps reduce medical errors and improves team communication, resulting in better patient outcomes and lower healthcare costs.

For example, hospital-borne infections such as Sepsis, urinary tract, and CLABSI could all be significantly reduced by recording training exercises and then debriefing the event with the learners as to how they could improve their technique. By reinforcing the correct process and providing video evidence-based feedback on simulated cases, learners can improve their overall performance and communication skills.

Not only can institutions lower the infection rates through the use of video capture technology, they also lower the cost to the hospital's bottom line by reducing length of stay associated with these (and/or other) hospital-acquired conditions, as well as mitigating liability.

THE RESULTS

The U.S. healthcare system is facing unprecedented—and still growing—challenges and complexities, including a critical shortage of healthcare professionals to treat the millions of patients now entering the healthcare system due to the rapidly aging population.

One result of the changing healthcare landscape is that the hospital staff of today—and even more so of tomorrow—will be forced to simultaneously manage ever-greater numbers of patients and complex care scenarios. That means many of the questions and challenges facing hospitals and healthcare organizations are now much different than they were in the past.

Clinical simulation training is available via many more delivery systems than in the past—from state-of-the-art simulation centers to single-room facilities to portable and mobile units. Hospitals also have the option to leverage the assets of external mobile teams who provide simulation training on site so that hospitals can gain insight about their learners and improve outcomes.

Although some hospitals still just use clinical simulation training for technical training, an increasing number now leverage state-of-the-art simulation technology and resources to build learners' cognitive, collaborative, and communication skills. Providing clinical simulation training also demonstrates that the hospital is taking steps not only to improve quality of care, but also to reduce the risk of malpractice litigation and liability insurance premiums.

EMS' mission is to advance the quality and efficiency of clinical care through smarter simulation, leading to better outcomes. EMS helps to build mastery around: clinical skills, collaboration, communication, and competency for improved patient safety and quality of care.

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