

Co-creating an interprofessional simulation with medics and pharmacists in training to influence safe prescribing

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Background and Aim

Patient safety is at the heart of medicine and medical training, but errors do occur. During a medical undergraduate project about simulation and patient safety, the goal was to create a simulation to increase awareness around common medical errors, in particular prescribing errors. Involving other members of the MDT, not just medical students and doctors could help reduce the number of errors.



Method

Data was collected from incident reports at NHS Forth Valley and from current Foundation Year 1 doctors, clinical pharmacists and pharmacy students. This gave a list of common prescription errors that occur and allowed a simulation to be developed in relation to real, current patient safety concerns.



Results

The simulation was run successfully with foundation doctors and pharmacy students. Undergraduate medical students attended the discussion after the simulation. This has led to some discussion about the impact of the presence of pharmacists on wards. Those involved in the scenario found it enjoyable and useful, commenting on how it was good to involve the wider MDT.



Discussion

There was discussion between the governance and pharmacy leads of the hospital about the importance of pharmacists on the wards. It was considered a good idea to try run this scenario for the wider MDT. Involving members from across the MDT is good for team building. However, pharmacy leads pointed out not all members of staff get the opportunity to practice simulation. So, it would be good to try and upscale this simulation or provide it as an e-module. Work has now been taken forward into NHS Forth Valley Transformative Simulation Collaboration with plans to use the scenario for the wider MDT.



Conclusion

The use of IR-1s to create simulation provides benefit to multiple members of the MDT and can be used to reduce patient harm. However, additional research should be done to see how many members of the MDT can access simulation, and the impact of these simulations on everyday practice.

