UW Health Clinical Simulation Program

Program Vision
‘Offer a world-class simulation program that promotes sharing of clinical knowledge and skills across disciplines and practitioner populations, to improve the quality and safety of patient care in Wisconsin and beyond.’

Clinical Simulation Strategy
Our strategic framework emphasizes continuous quality improvement with the ‘Patient Care Experience’ as the focal point of all that we do. The strategic segments, consisting of Team Improvement, Continuing Professional Development, and Research and Development, support this paradigm.

Nursing Annual Review
Tamara Zupanc, RN, MSN, CCRN

The Joint Commission mandates certain requirements for nursing competency assessment. A process was developed utilizing simulation to centralize and improve our facility’s annual competency assessment. Such process was defined by conducting a survey in order to assess nurses’ perceptions. Survey results of the nursing staff that participated reflected increased satisfaction with the process, and improved confidence to provide the skills reviewed in the simulation center. More than 1,100 nurses and CNAs participated in the assessment.

Humeral Head IO Model
Michael Lohmeier, MD

This study evaluated the approach of humeral head intra-osseous access. Requirements for design of this simulator was to anatomically represent a human humerus starting from the bottom of the humerum and extending toward the elbow. To provide a realistic feel for insertion of the needle, the simulator also was designed to include skin and muscle layer, joint mobility and adequate osseous lidar intermingled. Replenishment, tissue’s cost and ease of use was also taken into account.

Abscess Project
Gregory Rebello, MD

This research educates learners on proper abscess draining techniques. It incorporates education on draining various abscesses by using a simulated model that represents both a subcutaneous fat layer as well as epidemics. Additionally, it allows learners to practice closing larger incisions, deep and superficial suturing and proper suture to utilize. Currently, these models are being used by pediatric residents in a skills learning setting, however, it is our goal to extend the use of these models by incorporating them with high fidelity manikins during a case scenario simulation.

Breast Assessment
Carla Pugh, MD, PhD

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women with over 200,000 diagnoses each year and the second most common cause of death from cancer in women in the United States. As an adjunct to mammography, the clinical breast exam (CBE) is considered to play an important role in early detection of breast cancer. Assistant Professor of Medical Education and former resident challenge to teach and learn. The goal of our research is to develop simulations that can provide competency assessments for this clinical skill. We are completing data collection, analysis and protocol development in order to achieve this goal of assisting in the consistency for this crucial element of medical education.

Central Line Curriculum
by Committee

To address unadvised events of infection and canalization of Central Lines, UW Health developed a curriculum to implement a hospital initiative for UW Health residents to participate in simulation based best practice Central Line training. This curriculum includes a web-based teaching guide, prior to hands on simulation. Selection of participating residents was dependent on the departments which place the significant quantity of central lines. The department identified were Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pulmonology/Critical Care, Nephrology and Cardiology. The UWMC Medical Director and Senior Vice President of Nursing began a charge to standardize central training process for insertion, maintenance and removal.

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