Obstetric Decision-Making and Simulation

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Foreword

Simulation is now firmly established within medical education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Increasingly multiprofessional team-based, simulation is being undertaken to improve the performance of the clinical workforce and thus clinical outcomes, in a variety of emergency situations. The maternity unit is an area with an abundance of emergency situations amenable to, and that would benefit from, team-based simulation training. The pros and cons of high- versus low-fidelity simulation are often debated, with each having its own relative merits. There is one message that is consistent – undertaking simulation training is better than none at all. Even for low-fidelity simulation barriers still exist; devising a ‘good’ scenario, who should be involved, what kit is required and what key elements of clinical practice need to be demonstrated in the scenario? For individual units and clinicians addressing even these simple aspects requires a significant amount of work. This publication, serving as a brilliant ‘simulation recipe book’ removes many of the practical barriers that can prevent the development of local simulation training. The clinical scenarios are all presented in a standardized format to ensure easy navigation.

Crucially the book also contains a powerful section about the role of Human Factors, providing an invaluable context to the simulation scenarios. Raising awareness and promoting Human Factors principles and practices in healthcare and embedding an understanding of Human Factors into clinical training are major commitments of the Human Factors in Healthcare Concordat. This was published in 2013 by the National Quality Board and signed by multiple stakeholders including the CQC and the GMC.

I congratulate all the contributors on putting together what I’m sure will become the ‘go to’ book on simulation in the maternity unit.

Dr Nuala Lucas
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