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Training for teamwork through *in situ* simulations

Asta Sorensen,¹ Jon Poehlman,¹ John Bollenbacher,¹ Scott Riggan,¹ Stan Davis,² Kristi Miller,² Thomas Ivester,³ Leila Kahwati¹

¹RTI International, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA

²Medical Teamwork Consultants, Edina, Minnesota, USA

³University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA

Correspondence to

Asta Sorensen, RTI International, 3040 Cornwallis Road, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, USA; asorensen@rti.org

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ABSTRACT

In situ simulations allow healthcare teams to practice teamwork and communication as well as clinical management skills in a team's usual work setting with typically available resources and equipment. The purpose of this video is to demonstrate how to plan and conduct *in situ* simulation training sessions, with particular emphasis on how such training can be used to improve communication and teamwork. The video features an *in situ* simulation conducted at a labour and delivery unit in response to postpartum hemorrhage.

In situ simulations are conducted in real clinical environments to allow healthcare teams to practice teamwork and communication, and clinical management skills, in a team's usual work setting with typically available resources and equipment. Such training improves reliability and safety of high-risk situations, allows for experiential learning, and improves the ability to identify and address latent threats and systems issues. Recent programmes and studies have demonstrated that *in situ* simulations improve unit safety culture, patient outcomes, knowledge, practical skills, communication and team performance, and reduce adverse event costs. Although multiple benefits of *in situ* simulations exist, support to individual hospitals and units for implementing *in situ* simulation has been limited.

The purpose of this documentary-style video is to demonstrate how to plan and conduct *in situ* simulation training, with particular emphasis on how such training can be used to improve communication and teamwork. The video features an *in situ* simulation conducted at a labour and delivery unit. In addition to instructional content, most of the scenes show unscripted, yet authentic footage, of simulation facilitators and a healthcare team planning, running and debriefing a simulation, and demonstrate the use of visual media during the simulation debriefing—a process that provides a forum for shared learning experiences.

This video will facilitate the implementation and routine use of *in situ* simulations, as it allows prospective users to visualise techniques difficult to convey in other media forms and training modalities.



The video is part of a toolkit that will become available in late 2016. More information on the toolkit is available on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality website (<http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/hais/tools/perinatal-care/index.html>).

Contributors AS was involved in the substantial contributions to the conception and design of the work; drafting the work and revising it critically for intellectual content; and final approval of the version to be published; accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. JP, JB, SD, KM, TI and LK were involved in the substantial contributions to the conception and design of the work; drafting the work and revising it critically for intellectual content; and final approval of the version to be published. SR was involved in the drafting the work and revising it critically for intellectual content and final approval of the version to be published.

Competing interests None declared.

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