

P59

NEONATAL EDUCATION FOR ANAESTHETIC TRAINEES (NEAT)- A 1 DAY COURSE TO ADDRESS THE STAGE 2 2021 ANAESTHETIC CURRICULUM CHANGES

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Introduction and aims

The introduction of the 2021 Anaesthetic Curriculum presented a challenge to the North of England School of Anaesthesia regarding the evidence of neonatal competencies required for sign off at Stage 2 of training (1). The North of England covers a large geographical area, with a low-density population, therefore we have a single tertiary level paediatric centre delivering the vast majority of neonatal anaesthesia. Previously all trainees rotated through the Great North Children's Hospital for higher paediatric anaesthetic training to ensure they received the maximum exposure to paediatric and neonatal cases. However the department does not have the capacity to support all trainees through Stage 2 and 3 paediatric anaesthetic training. To meet this gap and ensure all trainees achieve the skills they require to progress, we set out to create a neonatal anaesthesia education day to complement the paediatric anaesthetic experience achieved in other trusts around the region.

Methods

We created a working group involving paediatric anaesthetists, neonatologists and a paediatric surgeon to develop and deliver a one day course to meet the Stage 2 curriculum requirements for neonatal general anaesthesia and resuscitation. The course consisted of presentations delivered by our neonatal and paediatric surgical colleagues on their specialist areas. We ran 6 simultaneous small group break-out sessions covering intubation, face-mask ventilation with real-time feedback on leak using the GM Smart kit, transfusion, calculations, cerebral oximetry and patient positioning for surgery. The day ended with 2 simulation scenarios focusing neonatal resuscitation with faculty from the multi-disciplinary team and support from our anaesthetic nursing staff.

Results

Our first course was delivered at the end of January 2023 for thirteen candidates; twelve internal and one external. The majority (69%) of candidates were at Stage 2/Stage 2 top-up of training, with one Stage 1 candidate, two Stage 3 and one non-training grade anaesthetic doctor. 92% found the course extremely useful for their professional development and strongly agreed that it met their curriculum needs. All (100%) found the course enjoyable, would recommend it to their colleagues and felt it improved their knowledge and skills relating to neonatal anaesthesia.

Discussion and conclusions

We are thrilled by the excellent feedback received from our first course. The day was enjoyed by both the candidates and faculty. Going forward the course will become mandatory for Stage 2

Anaesthetic Trainees in the North of England to support their learning. To meet this demand we hope to deliver two courses per year and the faculty are keen to continue their involvement on the course. From feedback received we will review the location of the course to optimise candidate experience but very little change to the content will be made given the overwhelming positive feedback.

Reference

1. Royal College of Anaesthetics. Stage 2 HALO Guide, 2021 Curriculum learning syllabus: stage 2. February 2021.