

# P16

## SAFER TEAMS AT ALDER HEY THEATRES (STAT): COMBINING SIMULATION AND HUMAN FACTORS TO IMPROVE THEATRE SAFETY AND CULTURE

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### **Introduction and Aims:**

In 2020 Alder Hey Children's Hospital (AHCH) moved to create a bespoke programme to improve the safety culture of its operating theatres. Safer Teams at Alder Hey Theatres (STAT) is a locally designed programme combining interactive Human Factors (HF) teaching, and stimulating simulation, to improve team safety in the operating environment. The programme was designed and run by Alder Hey staff, including Consultant Anaesthetists from the Jackson Ree's Anaesthetic Department, making it locally relevant and able to adapt to participant feedback.

The central aims of the program are

1. To promote an understanding of how Human Factors can practically improve patient safety
2. To promote civility within the teams
3. To empower teams to speak up by improving the psychological safety of teams.

### **Method:**

The STAT program is delivered over 1.5 days with participating teams reflecting the real make up of our operating theatre teams (Consultants, Scrub nurses, ODP's, HCA's etc).

The Human Factor element of the programme involves tutorials on different aspects of HF, with discussion aimed at marrying up theory with the participants clinical experiences.

The simulations are abstracted episodes designed to elicit real world human factors within the teams. Sims such as 'The Bungee Jump' and the 'Disco Sim' are used as a mirror, held up to the participants so they can better see the challenges they face in their clinical jobs. The heart of the simulations are debriefs, led by experienced local faculty, and providing a psychologically safe space to explore not only the problems teams encounter but also to work on teams-based solutions and promote autonomy.

### **Results:**

Since 2021, 142 members of the AHCH surgical team have completed STAT training, including 56 consultants.

Pre and post course questionnaire demonstrate improvements in candidates reported confidence to speak up and engage with checklists and the course retains an overall score of 9/10 for 'recommend a friend'.

Following introduction of STAT there has been a 75% reduction in Never Events, in theatres, as well as a reduction in critical incidents reported.

**Discussion and Conclusion:**

The STAT program represents a significant commitment of time and money, by AHCH, to improve theatre safety, especially during a time of increased pressure on waiting lists and productivity. This commitment has been maintained with a commitment for all theatre staff to attend the programme.

STAT is an example of a home-grown approach to safety culture, with local staff empowered to create a program that fits the needs of their workplace.

Candidate feedback supports the success of this approach. With rising awareness of human factors and the promotion of a culture of togetherness, mutual respect and both patient and staff safety.