

Remote Access to Simulated Skills Education: Evaluation of the Mobile Clinical Skills Unit for Scotland

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Introduction

The Mobile Clinical Skills Unit was designed and operationalised by the Clinical Skills Managed Educational Network (CS MEN) as part of the Scottish Clinical Skills Strategy. Clinical skills education priorities deliver outcomes which support the Scottish Government's Quality Strategy in relation to the delivery of safe and effective person-centred care. As a unique innovation, the Mobile Unit was evaluated over its first two years from a number of different perspectives, using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.



Methods

- Consultation with expert educators
- Input from National Education Initiatives
- Review of equipment and transport requirements
- Analysis of Remote & Rural training needs
- Identification of faculty development course provider

"With improved knowledge gives greater confidence dealing with children. I have dealt with a number of paediatric cases since the course. I am now more aware of the needs of the child, what to assess and how to utilise the information. Also, I am now better equipped to discuss a child's condition with a doctor in order to deliver earlier treatments on scene."

Paramedic, Western Isles

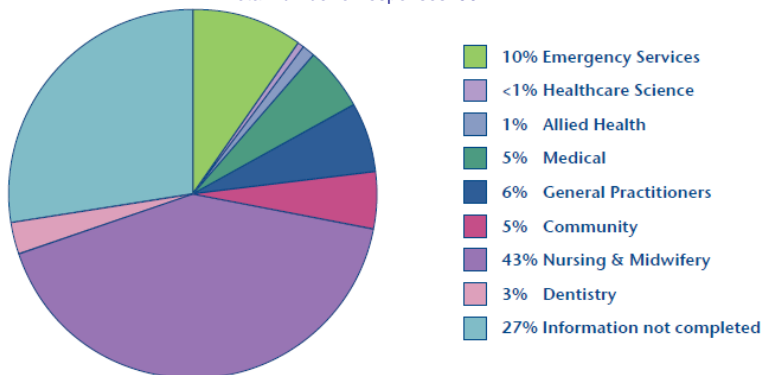
Results

During the two-year pilot, the Mobile Unit:

- Visited 26 venues
- Provided 227 courses
- Educated 1741 healthcare practitioners
- Trained approx. 100 educational faculty
- Changed behaviour in practice resulting in better patient outcomes

Breakdown by professional group of participants who attended educational sessions during the pilot period (January 2009 to December 2010)

Total number of responses: 902



Future Developments

1. Dedicated national skills educators for the Mobile Unit
2. Partnership working to transport the Mobile Unit and add to educational delivery
3. A core programme or curriculum for Remote and Rural practitioners
4. Use of the Mobile Unit to be built into local delivery plans

"This training has had a significant impact on my practice as it has given me greater confidence and insight in areas of care I had previously not been part of. An example of care that I benefitted from this training was when a young child was admitted to the hospital with breathing difficulties, I felt comfortable and confident enough to deal with the patient and assist the doctor with his duties even though I had no previous pediatric training other than what was provided by the skills unit." *Staff Nurse, St. Brendan's Hospital, Isle of Barra*

Conclusion

The Mobile Unit has made a significant contribution to the skills proficiency of remote and rural practitioners, and there are clear instances where this training has impacted on patient care. NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has endorsed the evaluation and committed to sustained funding under the auspices of NES CS MEN. For the full evaluation report visit: www.csmen.scot.nhs.uk