

Implementing a new Occupational Therapy Simulation programme: Ensuring it remains sustainable

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Background

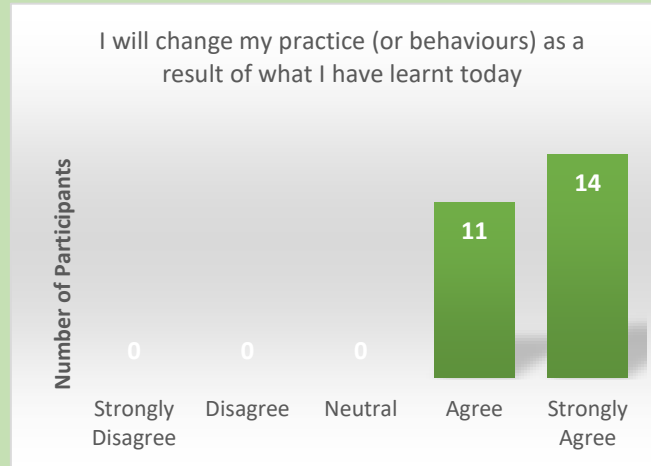
Simulation has a growing presence in Occupational Therapy (OT) undergraduate courses and in Allied Health education. However post registration OTs have historically not had many opportunities to access Simulation. End of rotation feedback consistently reported limited training opportunities and reduced CPD compared to their PT colleagues. This OT Simulation programme was launched to improve equality with educational opportunities and develop human factors skills. In addition it gave OT's the opportunity to train as Simulation faculty.

Methodology

A proposal was put forward to the Therapies senior management team (SMT). This was agreed and senior OT's were trained to be SIM faculty. Three scenarios were created by SIM staff working alongside OT faculty. SMT and Allied Health Professional Education Lead attended to observe Sim sessions.

Outcome measures were collected pre and post Sim to determine the effectiveness of the training. These included: Human Factors Skills for Healthcare Instrument (HuFSHI) to measure a change in understanding of human factors; General Self Efficacy score (GSE) to assess change in optimistic self-beliefs when facing difficult demands; Spielberger State Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI). Pre and post data was analysed using paired t-tests. Qualitative data was collected using a Likert scale and free text and represented graphically.

Results



25 OT's (band 5-8) attended over 5 courses. (Full responses from 20)

HuFSHI improved mean (SD) 80.55 (9.53) Pre and 93.65 (9.82) post (**p <0.001**).

GSE improved mean (SD) 29.85 (3.42) Pre and 31.25 (2.99) post (**p <0.001**).

STAI improved mean (SD) 12.9 (1.56) Pre and 12.7 (1.78) post (**p <0.42**).



Key factors for sustainability

- Knowledge & learning gaps identified
- Sustainable funding agreed – added to our learning needs analysis annual allocated budget
- Senior leadership engagement
- Keeping costs low – on site sim centre, in house faculty, low disposables requirements
- Faculty vision and enthusiasm

Conclusion

- Provided more educational opportunities for the OT profession with consistently positive feedback
- Significant improvement in understanding of human factors in healthcare
- Increased engagement of SMT to allow further courses
- Creation of engaged and empowered OT Sim faculty

