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Promoting safe birthing practices using low cost, low technology, high fidelity hybrid simulation with postgraduate midwifery students.

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BACKGROUND: During January 2013, 35 Registered Nurses from regional and rural Australia attended a regional university for a compulsory, week-long intensive school. The purpose of this intensive block was to adequately prepare postgraduate midwifery students with the theoretical underpinnings of safe birthing practices along with clinical skills development and application prior to commencing their clinical midwifery placements. In previous years, students' feedback regarding the intensive block reflected that many students felt ill prepared to safely enter the clinical environment. This was due to two factors: the timing of the residential which was previously held later in the year, and a lack of time to adequately practice and apply knowledge and skills learnt during the intensive. In an attempt to address this feedback, the facilitators of the intensive planned to enhance the students' degree of engagement, immersion and clinical reasoning application during the 2013 intensive via improving the fidelity of simulation used during learning activities. Whilst researching innovative simulation technologies, a journal article introducing the topic of using 'PartoPants' for low technology, high fidelity simulation for teaching midwifery students safe birthing practices was found (Cohen, Cragin, Rizk, Hanberg & Walker, 2011).

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES: The purpose of the presentation is to describe how low cost, low technology, high fidelity hybrid simulation methodologies can be effectively used to embed adequate clinical knowledge and skill acquisition during a postgraduate midwifery intensive school. An outline of the development and implementation of the clinical scenarios using 'PartoPants' to teach novice midwifery practitioners vaginal birth, antepartum haemorrhage, postpartum haemorrhage and shoulder dystocia will be presented. Furthermore, feedback from the facilitators regarding the benefits and challenges of using this simulation methodology will be discussed, including its role in exploring human factors such as enhancing patient safety. In addition, feedback from students and industry partners regarding students' preparedness for entering the clinical environment following this intensive school will also be described.

REFERENCE:

1. Cohen, S. R., Cragin, L., Rizk, M., Hanberg, A., & Walker, D. M. (