Transition of Hospital Based Endoscopy Nurses to an Ambulatory Setting

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INTRODUCTION

Somerville Hospital, part of Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) was transitioning from a full service hospital to an urgent care center. Endoscopy services were to remain on site as a freestanding GI center. Endoscopists and nursing staff were concerned that there would be no on-site services available to intervene should a medical emergency occur. Previous practice was to immediately transfer patients who had experienced complications to the inhouse Emgergency Department for a higher level of care

OBJECTIVES and GOALS

Objectives:
- Assess emergency preparedness of endoscopy physicians and nursing staff
- Identify knowledge and skills gaps when intervening during emergency simulations
- Improve assessment and responsiveness in emergency situations using simulation activities
- Build upon teamwork and closed loop communication skills through debriefing following simualtions

Goals:
- Improve staff comfort in indentifying patient emergencies
- Increase knowlege of appropriate interventions during emergencies
- Improve time to activate community Emergency Response systems (911) in order to facilitate patient transfer to tertiary care center for higher level of care at main hospital campus two miles away

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION
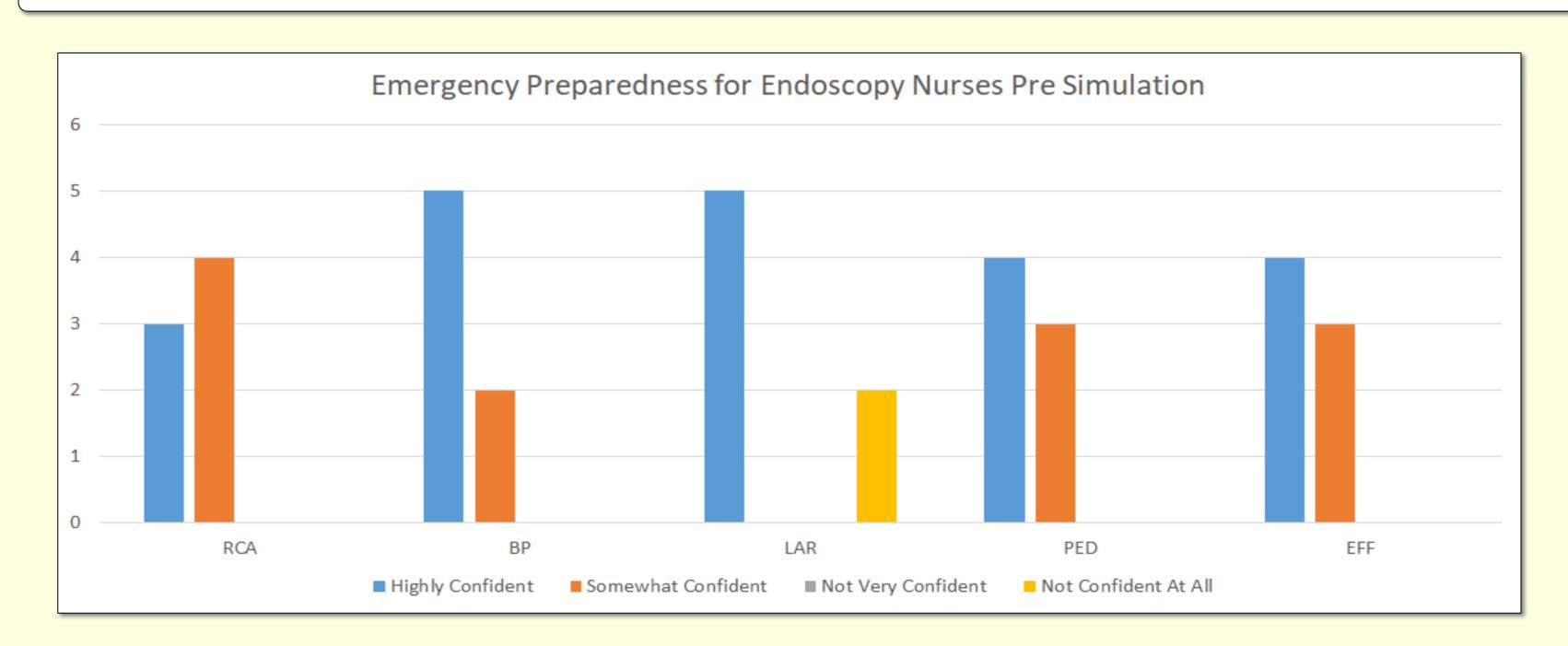
Process for implementation:
- Pre/post assessment using a Likert scale to assess staff knowledge and comfort in identifying and treating emergency situations
- Nurse educators developed emergency simulations likely to occur in the endoscopy unit
  - respiratory and cardiac arrest (RCA), bowel perforation(BP), laryngospasm and allergic reaction (LAR), psychotic events and deescalation (PED), equipment failure and fire (EFF)
- Endoscopy staff were divided into groups of four participants for three simulation activities and debriefed after each simulation
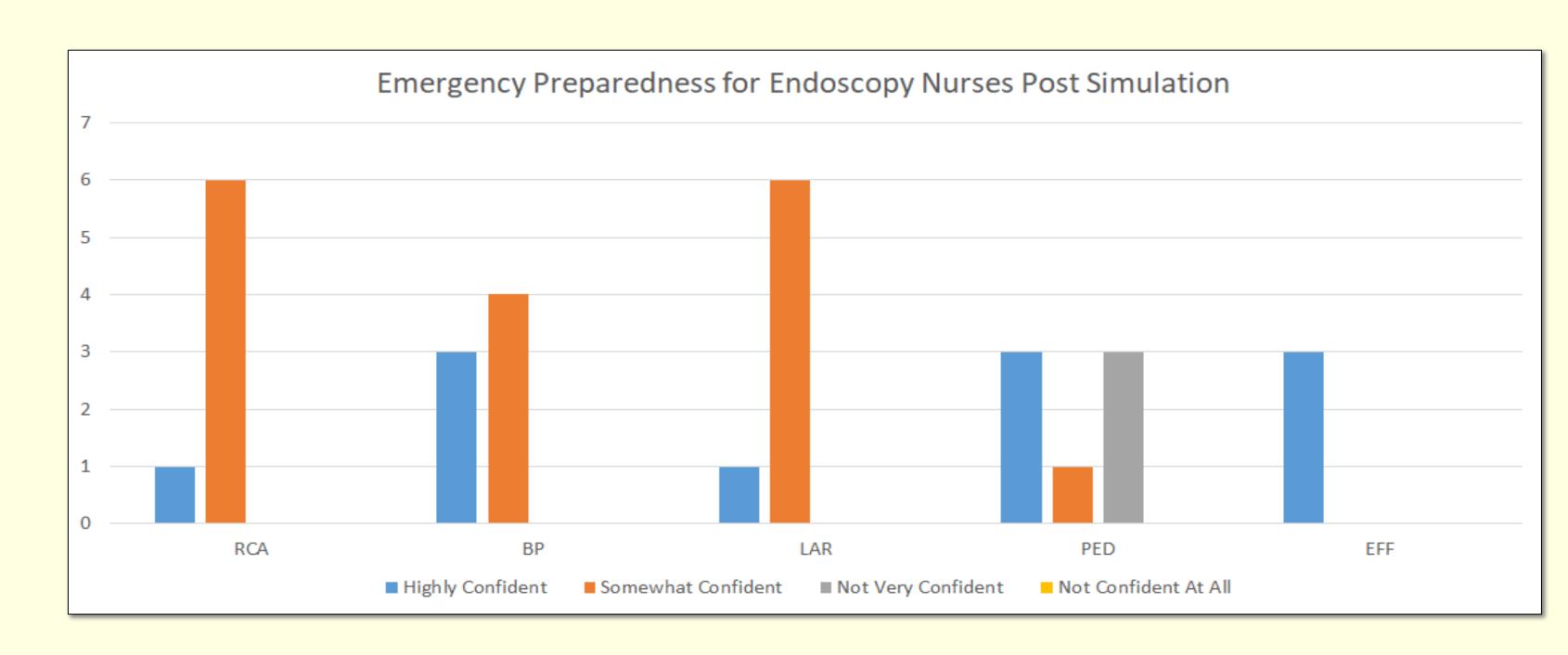- The exercise was repeated on subsequent days in order to capture most of the staff.

Statement of Successful Practice:
Nurses completed a post survey using Likert scale that was analyzed for improvement of comfort level in responding to emergencies that may be encountered in the endoscopy unit
The pre-post assessment showed no increase in confidence: however, staff had rated themselves high on all elements in the pre-assessment..
Anecdotally, they noted how much they learned and appreciated the opportunity to practice with the EMS provider.

Emergency Preparedness for Endoscopy Nurses Pre Simulation
■ Highly Confident ■ Somewhat Confident ■ Not Very Confident ■ Not Confident At All

Emergency Preparedness for Endoscopy Nurses Post Simulation
■ Highly Confident ■ Somewhat Confident ■ Not Very Confident ■ Not Confident At All
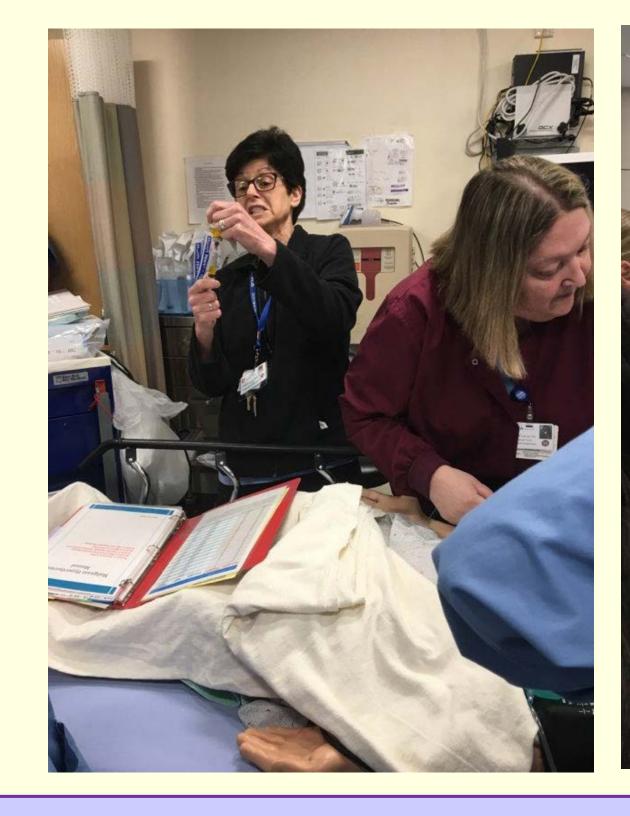
IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING

Teamwork and communication are essential in effectively intervening in emergency situations. Endo simulation was a valuable tool that provided staff with an opportunity to practice and build skills in a safe learning environment.

Debriefing sessions provided an opportunity for discussion and reflection of how to improve in the future.

Nursing staff may become more confident when participating in simulation activities and therefore improve performance and outcomes when intervening in emergencies.

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