THE DAY THE SIMULATOR DIED – A PILOT
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Method:
Immediate feedback was sought on the day
A follow up questionnaire was sent 4 months later
to explore further the educational value of the day
– these are the results presented.

Background:
Healthcare professionals who are involved with the unexpected death of a child face a dual dilemma in coping with one of the most challenging tasks a professional can ever encounter; compounded by feeling unprepared: because it remains an infrequent and sporadic event.²

An inter-professional simulation day was designed to help prepare learners for being faced with unexpected child death.

The day comprised:
• Introductory lectures covering: APLS management of cardiac arrest, local child death guidelines & issues to consider around stopping resuscitation efforts
• Two high fidelity simulation scenarios of unsuccessful resuscitations – these included the presence of a simulated parent
• Focused communication skills sessions: breaking bad news & explaining local child death procedures

DEMOPHROGICS OF PARTICIPANTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consultant Paediatrician</th>
<th>1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 Paediatric Trainee</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1 Paediatric Trainee</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broad Based Training Trainee</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paediatric Staff Nurses</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

* 8 out of 9 participants completed the follow up questionnaire

The difference in nursing & medical participants reflects the differences in provision of study leave between the groups.

KEY FEEDBACK THEMES:
• Lack of experience – 5 out of 8 respondents had never had experience of breaking bad news or had been the primary deliverer of bad news on fewer than 5 occasions
• Lack of formal training – 50% had no formal training on child death procedures or breaking bad news
• Limited workplace exposure – few informal training opportunities

• Simulated parents – valuable & increased realism of scenarios

A POSITIVE INTERVENTION

“...The actress who played the mum was invaluable to the simulation as she made it a lot more realistic”

“I have felt much more confident particularly when talking to parents”

“I have had the opportunity since to put into practice...”

CONCLUSIONS:
• Our multi-disciplinary simulation day resulted in increased confidence
• Simulation compliments learning in the workplace & can prepare learners for real patient contact especially for an infrequent & challenging event