

Development and Delivery of a Training Programme in Inter-Hospital Transfer for Anaesthetic Trainees and the Wider Multi-Disciplinary Team

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Introduction

Inter-hospital transfer of the critically ill patient is now recognised as a key capability within the resuscitation and transfer domain of the 2021 anaesthetic curriculum.

By completion of stage one of training anaesthetic trainees are expected to be able to safely transfer a critically ill but stable adult by road with distant supervision from a consultant. Due to the unpredictable nature of transfers, trainees clinical experience within this domain may be variable for anaesthetists across the country and even within the same deanery. Furthermore, while undertaking inter-hospital transfers, trainees are isolated from direct senior support and are often working in an unfamiliar environment with a team that is not well known to them. This has the potential to leave trainees exposed to critical incidents and adverse events.

Methods

An online survey was sent to all anaesthetic trainees in the West of Scotland in order to understand their clinical and training experience of inter-hospital transfers.

Following this, a one-day introductory course in transfer medicine was organised for anaesthetic trainees, nurses and operating department practitioners within the region.

Results

There were 71 responses to our survey with respondents representing all three stages of training equally. 60% of respondents had completed 5 or less transfers throughout their training.

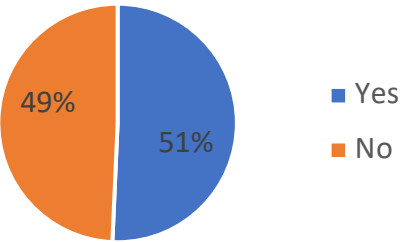
51% of respondents had received formal training in transfer medicine.

However, 74% felt they would benefit from transfer training.

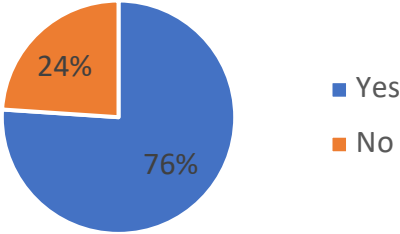
Approximately 10% of respondents reported a critical incident occurring while undertaking a transfer.

Transfer Survey Results

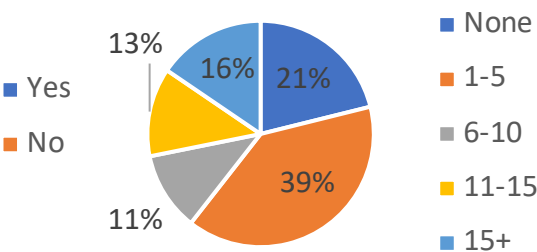
Have you had any formal training in transfer medicine ?



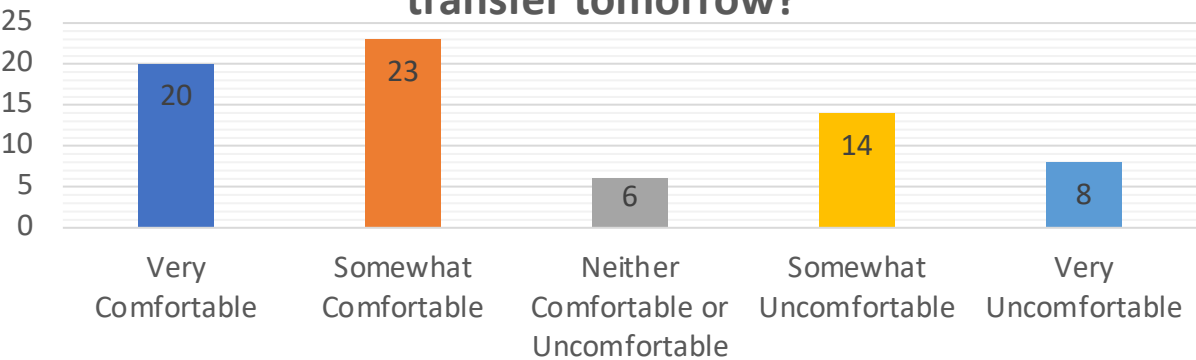
Would you benefit from transfer training?



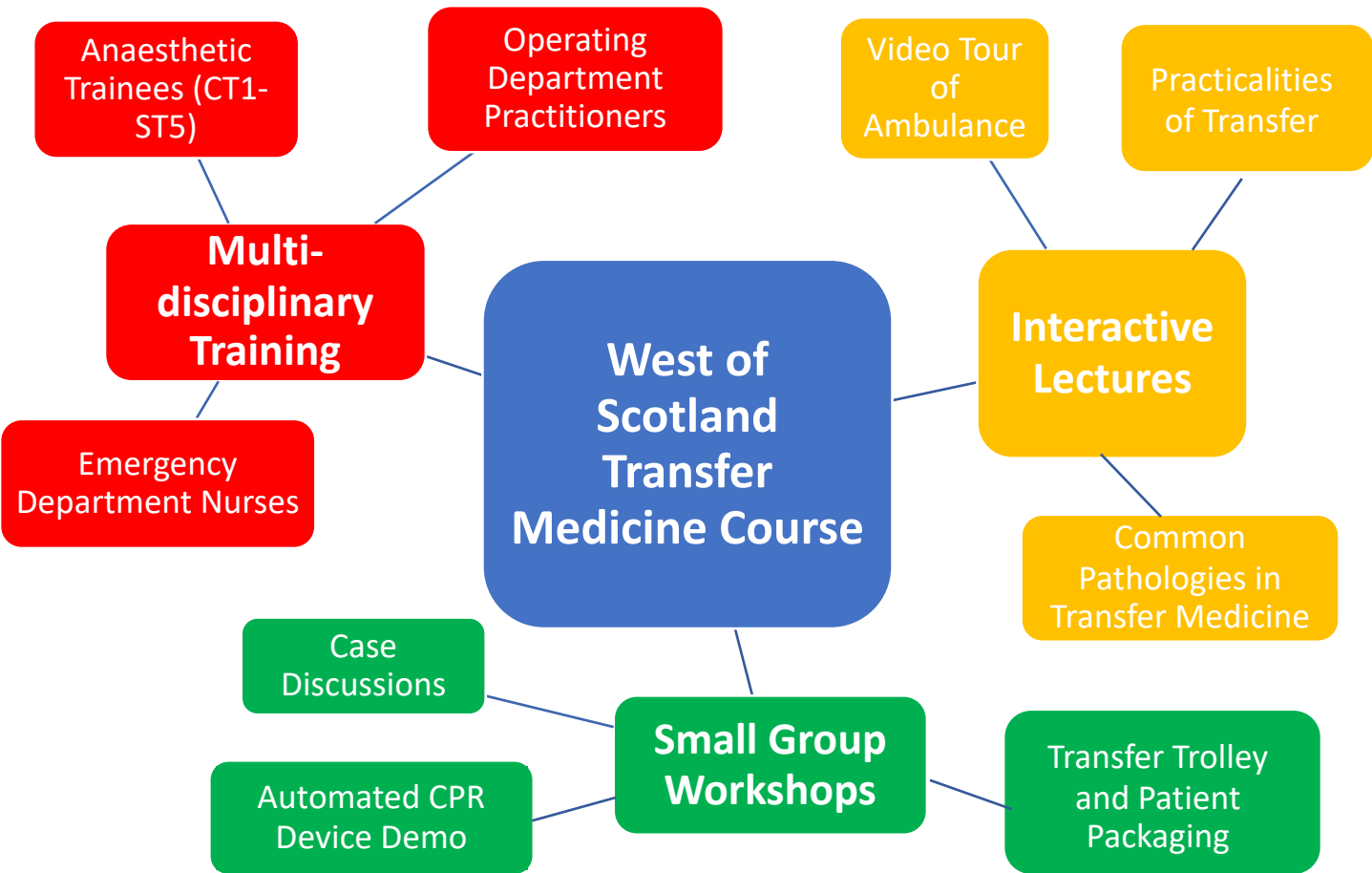
Number of Transfers Completed



How would you feel if you were asked to do a transfer tomorrow?

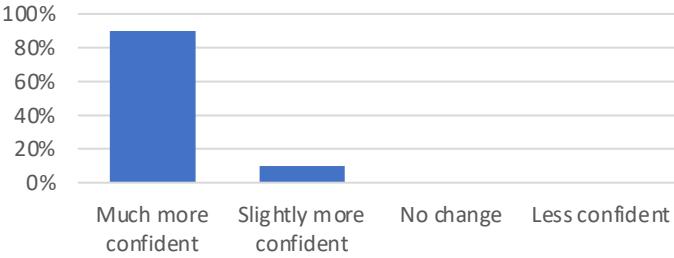


Development of Teaching Programme

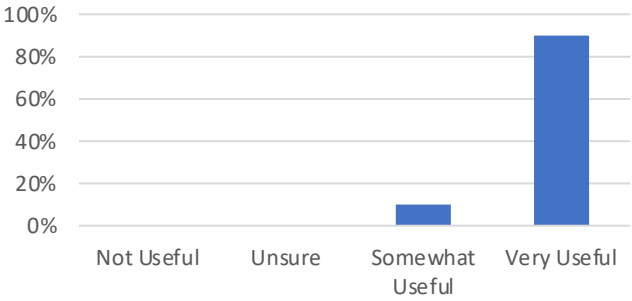


Post-Course Feedback

How Confident Would You Feel If Asked To Undertake an Inter-Hospital Transfer Now



How Useful Did You Find The Topics Covered in This Course?



Discussion

Our survey has identified an inequity in clinical experience and formal education in transfer medicine for anaesthetics trainees working within the same deanery. This has implications for trainees trying meet the learning outcomes of the Resuscitation and Transfer domain of the curriculum. The high incidence of critical incidents during transfer also suggests that this lack of experience and education may have patient safety implications for critically ill patients undergoing inter-hospital transfer.

These results, and the enthusiastic uptake of places on our initial course, demonstrates that there is a demand for more training in this area. This course aimed to introduce the principles and practicalities of inter-hospital transfer to as large a group of anaesthetists as possible. We also felt it was important to include the relevant members of the multi-disciplinary team in order to reflect the teams in which we work clinically. However, this did limit our ability to provide hi-fidelity simulation as part of the course. We recognise that simulation training or even supervised transfer may be an appropriate next step in training for this domain. Overall, the post-course feedback was hugely positive, and we hope to continue running this course on a biannual basis.

Conclusion

In summary our work has highlighted the current lack of formal training in transfer medicine within the West of Scotland School of Anaesthesia coupled with a desire from trainees for better education on the subject. In response to this we have delivered a high impact educational event which helps meet the key capabilities of the resuscitation and transfer domain of the 2021 RCOA Curriculum.