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A Quality Improvement Project looking at the use of Tea Trolley Teaching on a busy Labour Ward

Shaan Hyder Critical Care Fellow Northampton General Hospital shaan.hyder@nhs.net
Emily Rich, Intensive Care Registrar; Jyoti Misra, Consultant Anaesthetist

Introduction



A good doctor makes '**the care of your patient your first concern**'.[1]

Doctors must continue professional development by '**improving the practice for teams within which you work**'.[1]

Teaching during the COVID pandemic

- CHALLENGING!
- Clinical duties pushed to the forefront over educational activity with staff 'too busy' to be taught or unable to be released for in-situ training.[2]
- PROMPT and Neonatal Life Support courses cancelled.

The problem

Labour ward is a place where both elective and emergency work often happen simultaneously, with one-to-one midwifery care for each patient on the ward.

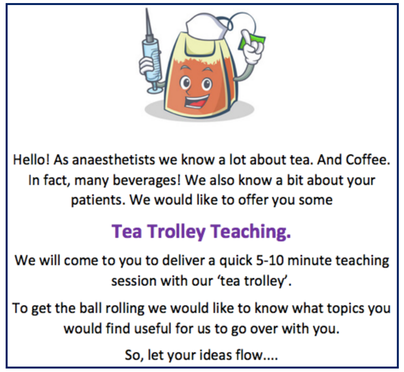
What is Tea Trolley teaching?

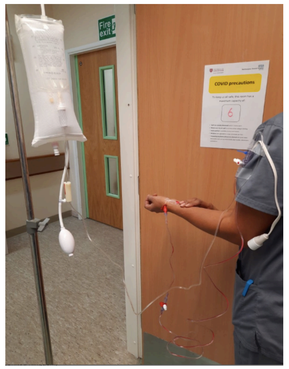
- A focussed, 10-minute teaching to an individual on a particular topic.
- This teaching trolley moves from room-to-room, relieving each midwife for a necessary tea-break.
- A senior midwife takes over patient care in each room visited.[3]



Methods

- June 2021 = Midwives given a questionnaire to identify topics they did not feel as confident in managing.
- July 2021 = Posters put up around Labour Ward to advertise Tea Trolley Teaching sessions.





- August 2021 = A teaching blueprint produced for each topic, and teaching by Anaesthetic Junior Doctors began.
- One topic delivered for 3 weeks, twice a week to cover the shift system of midwives.
- Midwives completed a feedback form after each session and provided with a certificate of attendance with a printed teaching summary on the back for future reference.

Results

- The questionnaires (n=11) identified a core list of topics midwives wanted teaching on.
- Epidurals, anaphylaxis and arterial lines formed the first topics of our Tea Trolley Teaching sessions.
- Feedback (n=30) has been overwhelmingly positive.

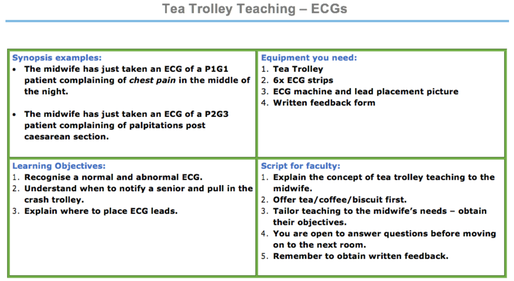
Discussion

- Tea Trolley Teaching acts as a bridge to the problem of service provision and professional education.[3]
- It is a feasible and innovative way of teaching to suit the educational requirements of Labour Ward midwives in the aftermath of a pandemic.[3]
- Standardised blueprints for each topic provides transparency to those trainees delivering the teaching, but also adaptability to the learners' needs and teaching style.[3]

Future Work

We have produced blueprints for 6 teaching topics including:

- Eclampsia,
- ECGs interpretation
- Maternal cardiac arrest.



Tea Trolley Teaching – ECGs

Synopsis examples:	Equipment you need:
• The midwife has just taken an ECG of a P1G1 patient complaining of *chest pain* in the middle of the night. • The midwife has just taken an ECG of a P2G3 patient complaining of palpitations post caesarean section.	1. Tea Trolley 2. 6x ECG strips 3. ECG machine and lead placement picture 4. Written feedback form
Learning Objectives:	**Script for faculty:**
1. Recognise a normal and abnormal ECG. 2. Understand when to notify a senior and pull in the crash trolley. 3. Explain where to place ECG leads.	1. Explain the concept of tea trolley teaching to the midwife. 2. Offer tea/coffee/biscuit first. 3. Tailor teaching to the midwife's needs – obtain their objectives. 4. You are open to answer questions before moving on to the next room. 5. Remember to obtain written feedback.

- These topics will be presented to midwives in the Spring 2022.
- We have adapted our teaching style to include small groups and have delivered teaching at night to those who only work nightshifts.

References

1. General Medical Council. 2019. *Good medical practice*. Manchester, UK: General Medical Council.
2. Kumar, K. et al. 2021. Educational opportunities for postgraduate medical trainees during the COVID-19 pandemic: deriving value from old, new and emerging ways of learning. Postgraduate Medical Journal; 0, pp. 1-3.
3. Jordon, L., McDonald, M. and Kelly, F.E. 2018. Combining the day job with time for training and tea. *British Medical Journal Blogs*.