

The ACORNS Course:

Experiences From Running a Joint Obstetrics and Anaesthetics Human Factors Simulation Course

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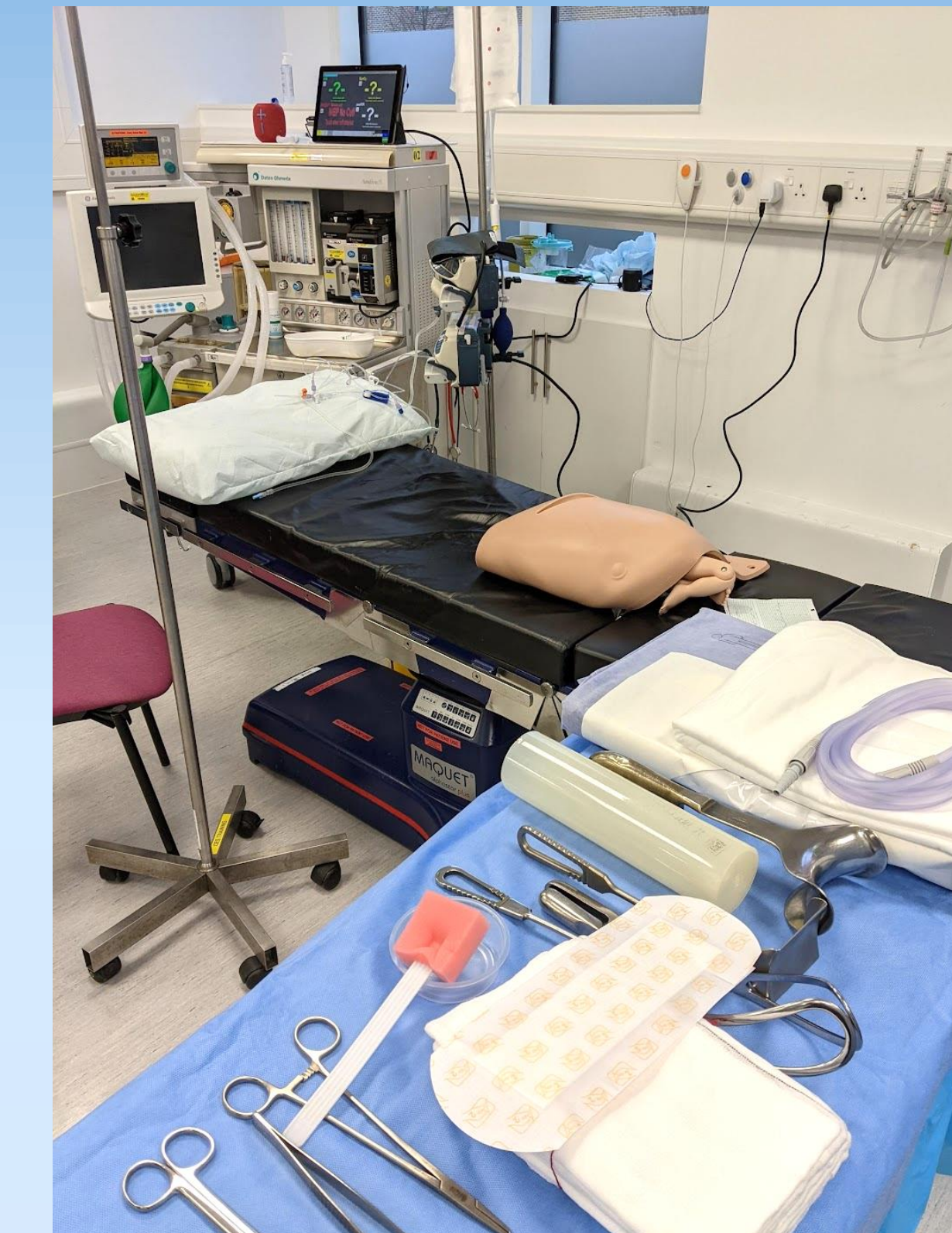
Background

Implementation of human factors is essential for improving safety and quality of care.¹ Non-technical skills are a component of a wider human factors approach, alongside a recognition of the importance of simulation and multiprofessional training.¹ Despite the importance of communication and teamworking in obstetric theatres, with the exception of PROMPT (PRactical Obstetric MultiProfessional Training), few simulation courses are specifically designed to train this skillset.

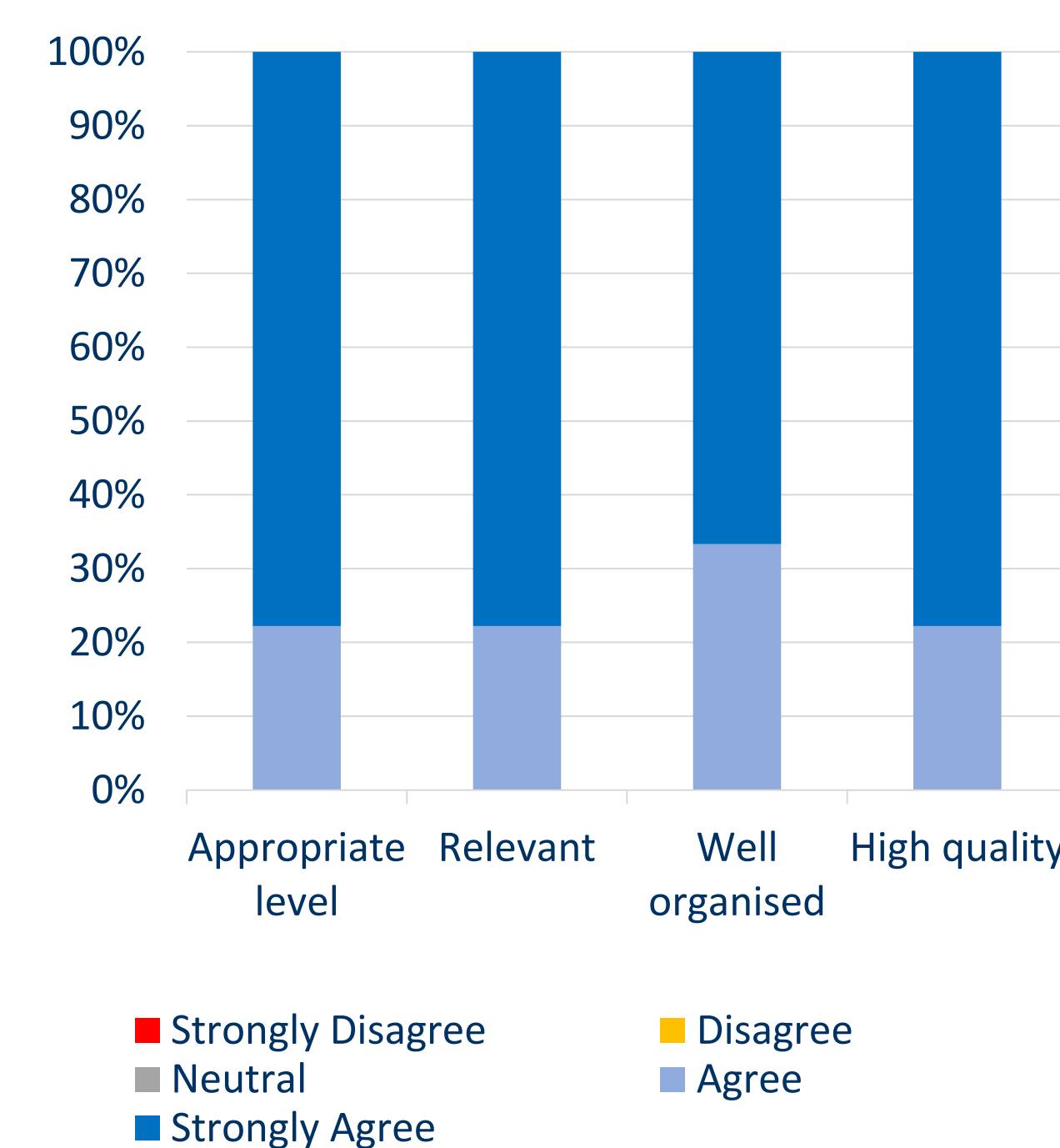
A simulation course was developed for anaesthetics and obstetric trainees focusing on communication during critical moments in obstetric theatres, with participants and faculty split equally between both specialties.

Participants completed a pre- and post-course survey, including self-reported confidence on each of the non-technical skills domains from the Anaesthetists Non-Technical Skills system (ANTS).²

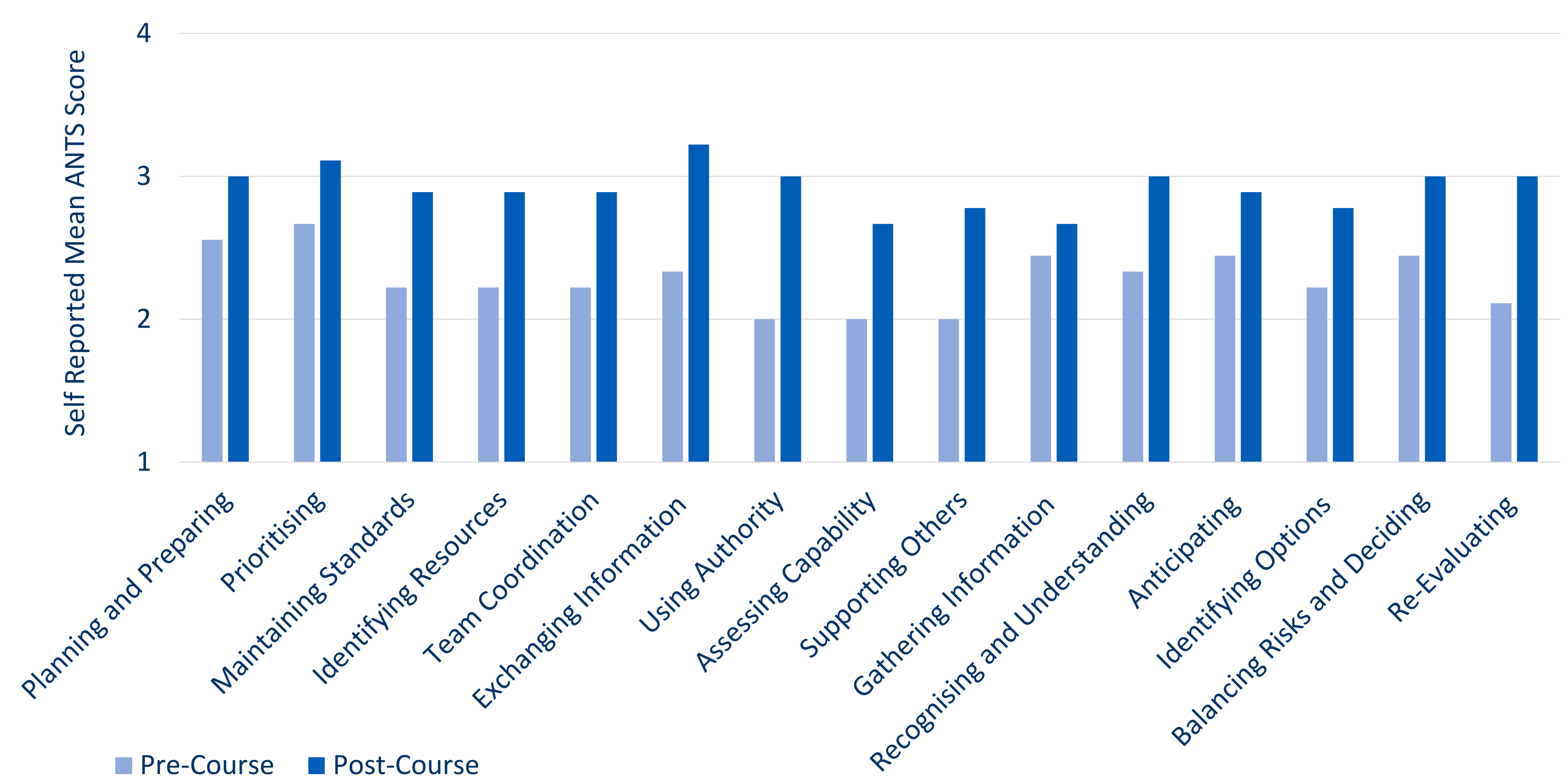
Our aim was to demonstrate an improvement in confidence with non-technical skills through multiprofessional human factors-based simulation. All participants consented to use of survey results for QI purposes including presentation and publication.



Course Feedback



Pre/Post Course Non-Technical Skills Confidence (ANTS)



Results & Conclusions

Feedback from the course was positive, with 100% of participants (n=9) stating they would recommend it. Median (IQR) overall confidence improved from 6/10 (1) to 8/10 (2.5).

The greatest improvements in self-reported ANTS scores (1-4) between pre and post course surveys were seen in exchanging information with team members (mean increase across all participants [MI]=1.1 [SD=0.78]), re-evaluation of the situation (MI=1.1 [SD=0.92]), coordination of team members (MI=0.89 [SD=0.6]), and assessing capability of other team members (MI=0.89 [SD=0.92]).

Individual feedback praised improved role understanding and rapport with trainees from the other specialty, high level of fidelity in simulations, and the supportive faculty.

A joint obstetric and anaesthetic simulation course that focused on human factors in obstetric theatres was highly valued by trainees and led to an improvement in overall self-reported confidence, as well as specific benefits for teamworking and communication.

We intend to develop this further and apply for NHS England study leave funding for both specialties to further support trainee development and quality of care.

References

- 1) Kelly FE, Frerk C, Bailey CR, Cook TM, Ferguson K, Flin R, Fong K, Groom P, John C, Lang AR, Meek T. Implementing human factors in anaesthesia: guidance for clinicians, departments and hospitals: guidelines from the Difficult Airway Society and the Association of Anaesthetists. *Anaesthesia*. 2023 Apr;78(4):458-78.
- 2) Flin R, Patey R, Glavin R, Maran N. Anaesthetists' non-technical skills. *British journal of anaesthesia*. 2010 Jul 1;105(1):38-44.