

Introduction: Hospital shootings are rare events that pose extreme and immediate risk to staff, patients and visitors. In 2015, the Ontario Hospital Association mandated all hospitals devise an armed assailant Code Silver protocol, an alert issued to mitigate risk and manage casualties. We describe the design and implementation of ASSIST (Active Shooter Simulation In-Situ Training), an institutional, full-scale hybrid simulation exercise to test hospital-wide response and readiness for an active shooter event, and identify latent safety threats (LSTs) related to the high-stakes alert and transport of internal trauma patients. **Methods:** A hospital-wide in-situ simulation was conducted at a Level 1 trauma centre in downtown Toronto. The two-hour exercise tested a draft Code Silver policy created by the hospital's disaster planning committee, to identify missing elements and challenges with protocol implementation. The scenario consisted of a shooting during a hospital meeting with three casualties: a manikin with life-threatening head and abdomen gunshot wounds (GSWs), a standardized patient (SP) with hypotension from an abdominal GSW, and a second SP with minor injuries and significant psychological distress. The exercise piloted the use of a novel emergency department (ED)-based medical exfiltration team to transport internal victims to the trauma bay. The on-call trauma team provided medical care. Ethnographic observation of response by municipal police, hospital security, logistics and medical personnel was completed. LSTs were evaluated and categorized using video framework analysis. Feasibility was measured through debriefings and impact on ED workflow. **Results:** Seventy-six multidisciplinary medical and logistical staff and learners participated in this exercise. Using a framework analysis, the following LSTs were identified: 1) Significant communication difficulties within the shooting area, 2) Safe access and transport for internal casualties, 3) Difficulty accessing hospital resources (blood bank) 4) Challenges coordinating response with external agencies (police, EMS) and 5) Delay in setting up an off-site command centre. **Conclusion:** In situ simulation represents a novel approach to the development of Code Silver alert processes. Findings from ethnographic observations and a video-based analysis form a framework to address safety, logistical and medical response considerations.

Keyword: disaster preparedness, code silver, in situ simulation

P011

Discerning perceived barriers and facilitators to goals of care discussion in the emergency department: A survey of emergency physicians and residents

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Introduction: Patients presenting to the Emergency Department (ED) may require clarification of their goals of care (GOC) to ensure they receive treatments aligned with their values. However, these discussions can be difficult to conduct for multiple reasons, including lack of time in a busy ED, competing priorities and a limited relationship with the patient. Few studies have examined the perceived challenges faced by Emergency Physicians in conducting GOC discussions. This study sought to contextualize and discern the barriers and facilitators to having these conversations as reported by Emergency physicians. **Methods:** An interdisciplinary team of Emergency Medicine, Palliative Care and Internal Medicine providers developed an online survey comprised of multiple choice, Likert-scale and open-ended questions to explore four domains of GOC discussions: training; communication; environment; and personal beliefs. Invitations and scheduled reminders were sent to 275 ED physicians at six academic sites in a Canadian urban centre,

including 49 EM residents. **Results:** 105 (46%) staff physicians and 23 (47%) residents responded with similar representation from all sites. Differences were reported in the frequency of GOC discussions: 59% of staff physicians conduct several per month whereas 65% of residents conduct less than one per month. Most agreed that GOC discussions are within their scope of practice (92%), they feel comfortable (96%), and are adequately trained (73%) to have them; however, 66% reported difficulty initiating GOC discussions. 73% believed that admitting services should conduct GOC discussions, yet acuity was noted in the comments as a major determinant with initiating GOC discussions by ED physicians. Main barriers identified were lack of time, chaotic environment, lack of advanced directives and the inability to reach substitute decision makers. 54% of respondents indicated that the availability of 24-hour Palliative Care consults would facilitate GOC discussions in the ED. **Conclusion:** Emergency physicians are prepared to conduct goals of care discussions, but often believe they should instead be conducted by the patient's admitting service. Multiple perceived barriers to goals of care discussion in the ED were identified, and a majority of respondents felt that the availability of Palliative Care in the ED may facilitate these discussions.

Keywords: palliative care, barriers to care

P012

Québec emergency physicians propose priority solutions to improve rural emergency care

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Introduction: In the province of Québec, roughly 20% of the population lives in rural areas. Rural emergency departments (EDs) face different challenges than their urban counterparts. Yet, few studies have sought to understand these challenges. This study aims to survey Québec's emergency physicians to: 1) identify problems specific to rural EDs, 2) find solutions for improving accessibility and quality of care offered in rural regions and, 3) rank solutions in order of priority. These results will allow data triangulation with other of our studies that seek to identify challenges faced by rural EDs and potential solutions. **Methods:** During the 2016 annual conference of the *Québec Emergency Physicians' Association*, we asked physicians and residents (including those from urban EDs), to complete a survey about the challenges faced by rural EDs. The survey contained two sections. The first took the form of open-ended questions in which respondents could write three challenges about accessibility and quality of care in rural EDs (objective 1) and three solutions to address these challenges (objective 2). The second section listed 11 potential solutions identified in our previous study. The solutions were ranked based on their priority level on a five-point Likert scale that ranged from "not a priority" to "an absolute priority" (objective 3). We added the total number of points for each solution and produced a ranking list. **Results:** Ninety-one physicians out of the 417 at the conference completed the survey; 58% came from urban EDs and 42% from rural EDs. Open-ended questions suggest that access to specialists and interfacility transfers are the principal challenges faced by rural EDs. The top five solutions identified as the highest priorities were: 1) care protocols, 2) improvement of interfacility transfers, 3) training with simulators, 4) targeted ultrasound and, 5) implementation of staff retention and recruitment strategies. **Conclusion:** This study is relevant and useful as roughly a quarter of attendants at the conference spontaneously volunteered to help identify and prioritize solutions to foster the accessibility and quality of care in rural EDs. Furthermore, it represents a stepping stone for our recently-launched