Successful Implementation of a Mock Code Blue Curriculum Focused on Competency Based Evaluation of Residents

Stephanie Griffith, MD, Providence St Vincent Medical Center, Jeff Youker, MD, Providence St Vincent Medical Center, Jason Heino, DO, Providence St Vincent Medical Center

Background:
- Second and third year Internal Medicine residents are responsible for managing all the code blue events in our hospital.
- Until recently there had been no formal process for teaching, evaluating and providing feedback surrounding their ability to communicate and work with the interdisciplinary code blue team.
- Mock code blue events can provide a unique opportunity to directly observe residents but can be difficult to conduct and require cooperation of many different departments.
- Our small internal medicine residency program is uniquely situated in a large community hospital without other residencies, which has presented historical challenges in conducting multidisciplinary mock codes.

Goals and objectives:
- Increase the frequency and consistency of mock code blue events with faculty observation
- Improve interdisciplinary collaboration for mock code training
- Begin using competency based evaluation of key milestones focused on team work, soliciting feedback and communication
- Improve resident facilitation of code blue debriefing sessions

Methods:
- Mock codes are announced overhead as “Code Blue” and can occur at any time of day and in areas that have been a challenge in real codes previously. They utilize a low fidelity mannequin in empty patient rooms.
- Interdisciplinary leadership support allowed for these to be called as real codes and occur without advanced warning.
- A faculty member is always present to evaluate the resident and provide real time feedback.
- After noting that most residents struggled in identifying themselves as code team leader and at identifying team members and their roles, didactic sessions were created to address these issues.

Impact/Effectiveness:
- Faculty observation of mock codes has been a valuable addition to evaluating resident team work and leadership skills.
- Residents surveyed before and after didactic sessions reported an increased understanding of team member roles and their role as code team leader and 100% of participants felt they had gained something from the sessions.
- Mock code events have lead to improvements in Code Blue Committee policies and procedures.
- Next steps include formalization of the didactic sessions and improved incorporation of milestones into the evaluation process.