



## COVID-19 CLINICAL SOLUTIONS

### **What did you do?**

We delivered an in-situ simulation workshop to primary care practitioners, undertaken at our GP practice, in order to provide an opportunity to practise resuscitation in a cardiac arrest scenario, with appropriate COVID-19 adaptations as advised by the UK Resuscitation Council and Public Health England.

### **Who are you?**

Emma Clare Hughes, General Practice Academic Clinical Fellow ST2, Bowland Medical Practice, Manchester; Peter Michael Kilgour, Emergency Medicine ST6, Salford Royal Hospital, Salford.

### **What was the problem?**

As emergency department attendances decrease, community healthcare settings may see a rise in unexpected presentations of patients *in extremis*. Primary care practitioners should therefore anticipate a subsequent increase in cardiac arrests and take actions to refresh knowledge of basic life support (BLS) and the adaptations required for COVID-19.

### **What was the solution?**

As BLS courses for primary care practitioners have been suspended due to the global pandemic, our refresher was organised 'in-house'. We led an in-situ simulation workshop in our GP practice, allowing healthcare staff to train in their own environment. In the interests of observing social distancing, a limited number of participants were involved in the simulation itself, however, other members of staff joined for the debrief, albeit appropriately spaced apart.

Participants were pre-briefed on the objectives of the simulation, roles, and expectations, and then a receptionist entered the room, unannounced, asking for a doctor to see to an unwell patient she had just checked in. The leading participant was expected to recognise cardiac arrest and implement immediate management with COVID-19 adaptations.

Not only did the simulation workshop refresh knowledge and enable us to practise relevant adaptations, it also highlighted vital latent safety errors. These included communication issues between our temporary portacabin (where we are currently assessing patients) and the practice, provision of updated COVID-19 algorithms, and access to emergency equipment and appropriate PPE.

As a result of the simulation, we have developed a 'COVID-19 cardiac arrest algorithm for primary care' and a 'background information summary sheet'. Copies of these are now available in our temporary portacabin and co-located with the emergency equipment.

We think this workshop was really worthwhile and would recommend all practices undertake an exercise to prepare their staff in the event of a cardiac arrest in these unprecedented times.

**Where can we find out more?**

Please contact [e.hughes12@nhs.net](mailto:e.hughes12@nhs.net) for more information and for copies of the algorithm, information sheet, and workshop outline.

<https://bjgp.org>