“RRHEAL Human Centred Skills in Care of the Acutely Ill or Injured Child or Young Person: A skills maintenance tool for rural health care workers recognising and assessing the sick child”

Fiona Fraser, Project Lead RRHEAL
Katie Walker, Rural General Practitioner
Renee MacKenzie, Educational Assistant and Emergency Raigmore Hospital
Andrew Rawlinson, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Raigmore Hospital
Caroline McAnes, Educational Projects Manager, Child Health, NHS Education for Scotland.

Keywords:
- Person centred
- Assessment and Resuscitation
- Clinical skills maintenance
- ABCDE
- SBAR
- Technology assisted learning
- Distributed education

Description of purpose:
In support of the Emergency Care Framework for Children and Young People in Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) was charged by the Scottish Government, to develop a tiered model of education. This education underpins service redesign; helping address gaps in education provision in emergency and unscheduled care of children and young people.

It is well documented that paediatric emergency clinical skills rapidly decline if not updated regularly and where clinical skills are not put into practice.

RRHEAL/ES sought to extend the utility of existing core level learning content. The over-arching aim being to develop a tool(s) prolonging maintenance and reducing regression of skills in the context of rural practitioners.

Method:
Existing materials from the core programme were used to record a scenario in simulation, depicting presentation of a three month old baby to a rural centre/practitioner. Standardised approaches to initial assessment and early resuscitation are modelled in the scenario to highlight the vital anchors to such clinical practice. These key items are also emphasised in the narration which supplements the film captured.

Results:
The completed work illustrates role modelled best practice of the early recognition to treatment of a sick child in a rural setting.

The scenario is mindful of current patient safety strategies and models best practice when applying:
- Standardised approach to clinical assessment
- The ABCDE approach to initial resuscitation
- SBAR guide to effective information transfer

In addition, good practice is illustrated in relation to developing rapport and engaging with both parent and child in such a challenging situation. The requirement for clear communication between both the parent and child and care team is demonstrated throughout.

The work gives important visual cues regarding critical “soft” and “hard” clinical skills, stressing the need for swift action when dealing with a deteriorating child. Particular emphasis is placed on the baby's isolated location, the potential for (appropriate) limitation to the initial resuscitation response possible and the need for early consideration of transfer.

**To be patient centred and human, such resources have to be contextually correct. This tool has been developed in collaboration with rural practitioners and modelled carefully to accurately represent remote clinical practice**.

In addition to the audio visual tool, a supplementary aid in the form of a narrator's script is provided. It is hoped this will add confidence to a facilitators skills in supporting small group teaching and clinical debrief.

This completed tool is now available via the RRHEAL education platform www.rheal.scot.nhs.uk which supports RRHEALs technology assisted learning and distributed model of educational delivery.

This compact resource is mindful of the current challenges of rural broadband and download speeds.

Conclusion:
It can be challenging for practitioners to respond to the immediate needs of an ill child. This challenge is amplified when working in relatively isolated clinical and geographical surrounding and in conjunction with the need to respond swiftly and with anticipation of a baby's escalating needs.

This resource is aimed at maintaining skill, reducing the rate of skills regression and augmenting existing materials in the core emergency care programme. The intended output being support for practitioners with responsibility for or whom encounter sick children and person centred care for families dealing with the distress associated with a sick baby.

Update: A second tool is now in development, which will focus on recognition and assessment of the febrile child.