#EM3
East Midlands Emergency Medicine Educational Media
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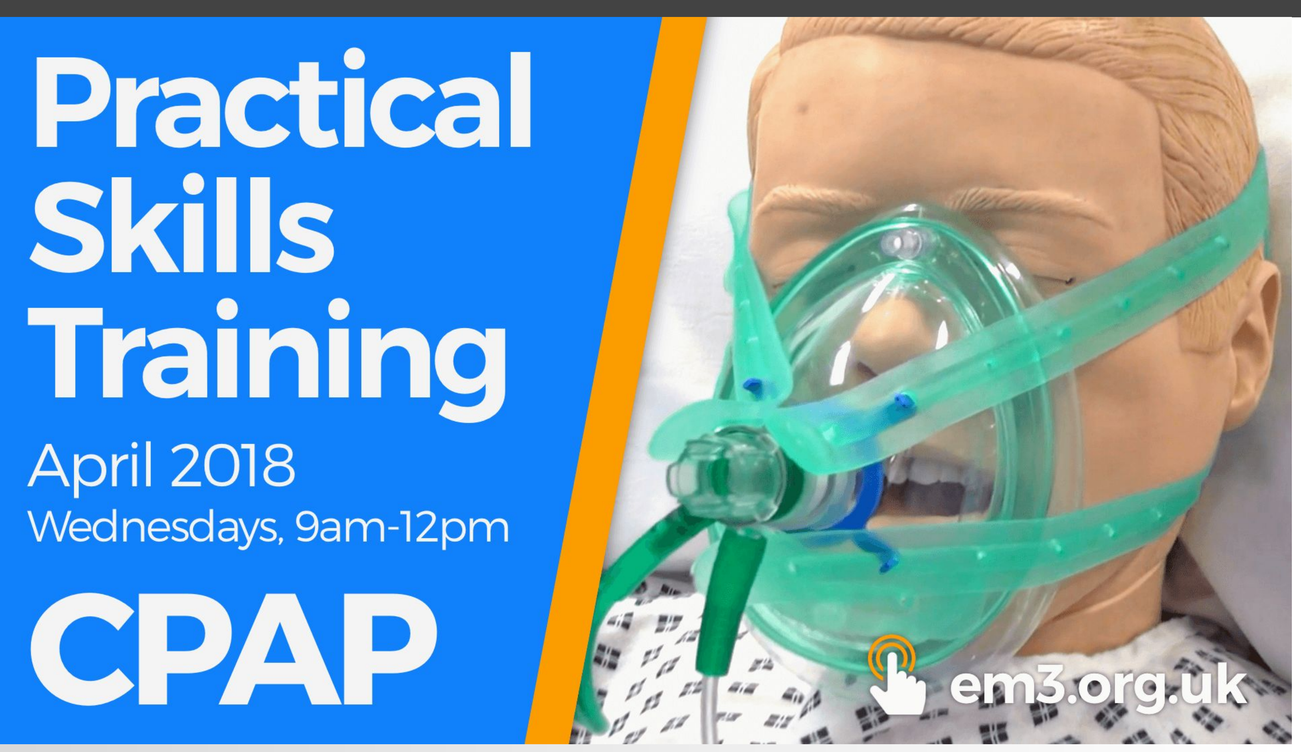
Introduction of Practical Skills Training in the ED

Background:

Teaching practical skills is always challenging, especially in a large Emergency Department. Recently, a **Datix** was raised which highlighted an incident where members of **staff were not confident in the use of certain equipment.** It was decided that more teaching on the equipment used in the department was needed, focusing on life-saving equipment.



Aim:

To provide accessible practical skills teaching & training to a multidisciplinary ED team across a wide variety of skills sets.

Method:

A programme teaching 12 practical skills over a year *(one skill per month)* has been developed to train staff **how to use vital pieces of equipment** (e.g. CPAP or Rapid Transfuser), and to **introduce staff to new equipment** and departmental procedures. This monthly system would also allow for flexibility so that new equipment can be introduced quickly *and* safely.

One half-day per week we use a purpose-built Simulation bay in our Emergency Room to carry out practical skills teaching. Education fellows and nursing educators have been utilised to facilitate this. **Video tutorials were created** for staff to watch before *and* after each session.

Teaching days begin with a drop-in session in the morning to allow night staff to attend. This is then followed by additional ad hoc and bookable slots available through our website (https://em3.org.uk/booking).

Both medical and nursing **staff are allowed time off the shop floor to attend** and can use training sessions to get their competencies signed off.

Discussion:

These sessions have been running for just over 2 months. The first sessions were on how to set up CPAP, followed by how to use our new LUCAS 3 machine. We had **low numbers initially** as it was a new concept and uptake was slow. However, the **second month had more drop-ins and booked appointments** and we actively sought staff to participate. This enabled us to recruit **100 staff members** for their LUCAS training, proving that this method can be a powerful tool for staff training while needing relatively few resources.