CONVERSATION CODES FOSTER AN OPTIMIZED ENVIRONMENT TOWARDS TEACHING PEDIATRIC ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT.

Being prepared to handle any code situation is of utmost importance in any field of medicine. In order to be prepared, pediatric residents must recognize the importance of PALS and be comfortable using that information and their training. Their comfort level is directly proportional to the number of times they are exposed to code situations. Residency programs use mock codes as a means to help guide the learner through their medical decision making; however there are limited times to have a mock code and that multi-disciplinary environment may not promote optimal learning. In our institution, we worked with our PICU department and developed a program where groups of residents and a PICU attending work through potential code situations in our simulation lab every 1-2 months. They benefit from being exposed to potential life-threatening situations in a non-hostile, simulated environment where they have access to real-time vitals, ECGs and labs created by the chiefs/PICU attending. The simulator can be programmed to react to the residents’ decisions, providing valuable feedback regarding the outcome of their decisions and allow greater understanding regarding the rationale on why certain decisions should be made. Moreover, being able to converse with and question the PICU attending in real-time makes this "conversation code" an environment that fosters medical education and goal-directed learning. In a quiet, non-hostile, simulated environment, our residents are able to work through various cases to practice their PALS. The repetition of these conversation codes with the mock codes allows our residents to be more familiar and comfortable with managing life-threatening situations.

Sincerely,
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