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INTERPROFESSIONAL BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

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This presentation focuses on the implementation of basic life support (BLS) for health and social care students. This interprofessional peer teaching initiative used senior students from medicine, nursing and diagnostic radiography from the University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University teaching undergraduate students from schools that currently have minimal BLS teaching (health sciences; pharmacy and life sciences, and applied social studies).

BLS is the first action taken to resuscitate a person who has become unresponsive. Student teachers were trained in pairs to teach their skills to first and second year students from the courses mentioned above, facilitated by academic staff from both Universities.

Participants were invited to evening sessions on BLS facilitated by lecturers. The learning objectives of the BLS focus on introducing the student learners to other healthcare professions and to engender a team working environment to health and social care students who would not encounter other healthcare professionals during their courses.

As a result of this project 308 students within the Faculty of Health and Social Care at Robert Gordon University received basic life support instruction and these are health professionals who will enhance patient safety. Fifty four student teachers were trained and 40 of those were able to use their skills and develop as teachers. The sustainability of this project has been enhanced as five of last year's trained student teachers are returning to continue their involvement.

The potential benefits of this are immeasurable and can only strengthen the impact of the patient safety agenda, add value to their first posts as health professionals and enable some of the key strategic objectives of NHS Education for Scotland-Strategic Framework 2011-2014 to be realised.

This peer teaching model could be transferred to any clinical skill enabling IPE learning outcomes to be achieved.