Purpose
This project evaluated student nurses’ ability to identify equipment found in an Emergency Department resuscitation bay and noted their perceptions of confidence in using it.

Context
In the U.K., the regulatory body (Nursing and Midwifery Council) requires that the student nurse be able to recognize and treat the deteriorating patient in an emergency situation and be aware of the correct use of clinical equipment. Exposure to emergency equipment occurs within both academic and clinical modules, with the latter varying according to individual placement allocation.

Methods
Students were asked to complete a structured questionnaire containing 23 photographs of clinical emergency equipment. They were requested to:

• identify each photograph
• state their perceived use of the equipment
• state if/where they had been taught to use it
• indicate on a linear scale how confident they felt in using it

The convenience sample consisted of nineteen 2nd year undergraduate nursing students.

Results
The most commonly recognized equipment were basic airway adjuncts:

- ✔️ 84%
- ✔️ 79%
- ✔️ 84%

Other equipment was less familiar to the students despite being incorporated in simulation practice.

- ✔️ 47%
- ✔️ 5%
- ✔️ 0%

However, recognition did not relate to confidence in practice, with 94% indicating they were not confident in using OP airways. Students with increased confidence in equipment use had personal experience through additional roles outside their formalized education, such as first aid or healthcare support worker roles.

Implications
Exposure of undergraduate nursing students to emergency equipment within the university setting is not synonymous with confidence in use. Students appear to have increased confidence when they have had real-life exposure. Nurse educators need to consider alternative methods of equipment familiarization within an academic setting.

References