Introduction and Objectives

There were numerous BLS/ACLS expired cards due to scheduling problems. Staff cited lack of easily accessible classes as one reason for this, thus our goal was to improve the BLS/ACLS re-certification compliance by providing a learning experience in an easily accessible location for a healthy work environment of a familiar hospital-setting.

Purpose / Objectives

- Decrease frustration scheduling a BLS/ACLS class
- Provide advance notice of a scheduled class
- Greater participation in a healthy-work environment
- Adequate time to practice skills
- Feeling of competence with BLS/ACLS skills
- No expired BLS/ACLS cards
- Minimal unit disruption
- Team-based learning

Literature Review

Class participants should have adequate hands-on practice in real-world environments on a hospital bed focusing on their psychomotor skills for successful course completion.

Use of feedback and debriefing assists students to retain skills and remain competent.

High fidelity simulation (HFS) significantly improved student’s knowledge and psychomotor skills.

Methodology

Focused on BLS/ACLS education specifically for the intradepartmental experienced provider renewal program to:

- Decrease staff time away from the cath lab
- Consider travel time and fees to find class space
- Moderate the work day away from patient care
- Avoid staff shortages needing a two-day certification class vs. a one-day renewal class
- Have no expired cards

This resulted in the department formation of the combined BLS/ACLS renewal class held monthly.

Outcomes

We served 42 staff members including physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners, radiology technicians, and patient care assistants:

- 8 BLS/ACLS classes = 36 staff members
- 3 BLS classes = 6 staff members

We evaluated our program goals after each class:

- 39/42 responses received:
  - Class rating on a 1-5 scale 37/39 = 5/5
  - Travel and parking fees eliminated; staff park in their designated parking assignment
  - Day of class chosen to diminish staff time away from cath lab schedule
  - Student attendance is moderated and adjusted as needed to minimize unit staff shortages
  - No expired cards
  - All 39/39 responded YES to a competency performance statement and having adequate time to practice skills

Verbatim Student Comments:

- “very convenient”
- “didn’t worry about finding a class nearby”
- “like availability of class”
- “teachers made it very clear”
- “like doing BLS at the same time”
- “definitely less stressful”
- “smaller class improves the learning experience”
- “more personalized attention”