

INTRODUCTION

Orientation to the simulation environment is an important component

Simulation program participants should be apprised of the expectations, fidelity and orientation to the simulation equipment and environment

The orientation process may be automated to reduce the amount of instructor or technician resources required to complete the task

Identifying simulation methods that reduce or eliminate direct, constant instructor oversight will help to increase the efficiency of simulation efforts

METHODS

Regularly occurring Paramedic Difficult Airway Simulation Program lasting about 8 hours per course

A student-driven automated simulator orientation tool was included as part of the orientation to a simulation based difficult airway training program for paramedics

It provided orientation to the room environment and the simulator used for the program

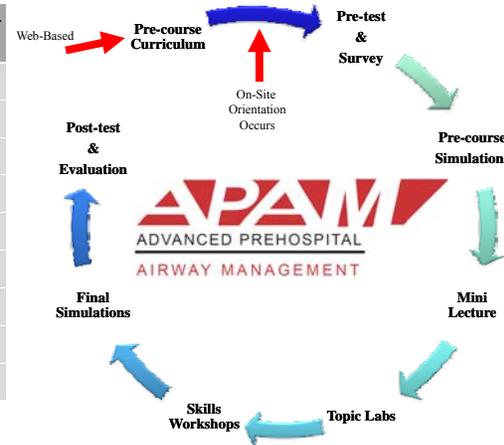
The tool supplemented a PowerPoint used during the orientation of the program that described the limitations of the fidelity of the equipment and the location of restrooms and overview of the schedule

The tool was a pre-programmed scenario put into a SimMan® that orients the student(s) to the airway features of the simulator, the monitoring devices and the room environment without the need for an instructor

Evaluation with a 9 point Likert scale for a statement "My Orientation to the Simulation Environment was Adequate"

METHODS

Topic Covered By Automated Tool	Topic Covered by Instructor with PowerPoint
Normal Airway	Schedule
Trismus	Expectations
Tongue Swelling	Realism Expectations
Pharyngeal Swelling	Restrooms
Laryngospasm	Food and Break Information
Lung Sounds	Safety of Valuables
Monitoring Equipment	Obtaining Consents as Needed
Available Equipment in the Room	
Crich Anatomy	



RESULTS

Likert Scale	Responses
9	183
8	96
7	32
6	7
5	5
4	1
3	3
2	0
1	5
Blank	2

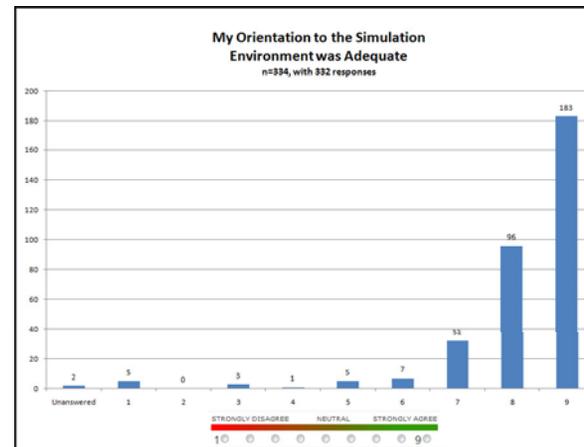
RESULTS

356 paramedics participated in one of the 44 courses

334 (94%) completed the on-line post-course evaluation

332 responding to the statement "My Orientation to the Simulation Environment was Adequate"

311 of 332 (94%) of responses were reported in the range seven through nine (agree to strongly agree)



CONCLUSIONS

- Orientation to the simulation environment can be adequately accomplished by combining a live presentation with an automated orientation tool to the satisfaction of the vast majority of participants
- Automating various aspects of simulation orientation are possible to make the use of instructor time more efficient
- Further investigations incorporating higher levels of automation of various aspects of simulation programs are needed