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31 EM Resident Education in Provider-In-Triage Operations

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Background: In an effort to meet the increasing demand for ED services, many EDs utilize physicians to provide efficient care and decrease door-to-provider times. Providing care in triage differs from the typical ED physician role. Residents who gain experience with provider in triage operations during residency will be better suited to provide in this setting after graduation. A literature review for the last 10 years revealed no sources describing EM residents in a provider-in-triage role.

Objectives: To determine whether a combination of didactic and clinical education could enhance EM residents' knowledge of, and comfort and confidence with, providing care in triage.

Methods: The study design was a pre- and post-education survey. The setting was an academic urban Level I trauma center with 100,000 annual visits. The participants were all PGY 2 and PGY 3 residents at PGY 1-3 EM residency. The education consisted of didactic and clinical experience. The didactic portion consisted of a lecture on ED operations, with a focus on the literature related to efficient provider in triage procedures, and a related reading list of articles. The clinical experience involved one shift per block in the triage area of the ED. The residents were asked to complete a 6-item pre and post survey using a 5 point Likert scale (1-not confident at all; 5-extremely confident), which asked questions about knowledge of and comfort/confidence with providing care in triage administered after 4 months of experience in this role. Median values and IQRs were calculated for each item and the responses were compared using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test.

Results: Twenty-one of 23 residents completed the pre-survey and 22 of 23 completed the post survey. The survey indicated a significant improvement in knowledge of provider-in-triage operations and increased comfort and confidence in providing care in triage (median increase 2, IQR 1-3, $p < 0.001$).

Table 1.

Survey Questions	Median Pre (IQR)	Median Post (IQR)	p-value
I can describe the goals of a provider seeing patients at triage.	1 (1-4)	4 (4-5)	0.0002
I can describe the process of a provider seeing patients at triage.	1 (1-4)	4 (4-5)	0.0002
I am familiar with the literature regarding the use of EM providers at triage.	1 (1-2)	3 (3-5)	0.0001
I feel comfortable providing care at triage.	1 (1-3)	4 (4-5)	0.0001
I am confident in my ability to provide care at triage	1 (1-3)	4 (4-5)	0.0001
I feel prepared to provide care at triage after I graduate from residency	1 (1-4)	4 (4-5)	0.0001
Overall	1 (1-3)	4 (4-5)	<0.0001