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Using low fidelity simulation to enhance inter professional education

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Title: Using low fidelity simulation to enhance inter professional education.

An inter-professional education initiative was developed in Queen's University Belfast within the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery and Medicine and piloted in 2014. The aim of the collaboration was to introduce concepts of normal labour and birth to fourth year medical students and was led by final year midwifery students. Using low fidelity simulation and creative licence resources such as birthing balls, birth mannequins, dolls and pelvises were available to the students to increase interactivity. Significant emphasis was placed upon the importance of relationship building with women in labour and the concept of being 'with woman' was core to all elements of teaching. Midwifery students undertook acting roles such as the labouring woman, partner or a midwife role and acted out mini scenarios such as contacting for advice about early labour; positions for labour or positions for birth. Medical students were encouraged to partake within the role play and the interactive workshop culminated with a hands on simulation of birth.

Preliminary evaluation of the workshops have been extremely positive. The midwifery students have commented on the benefits of team work in preparing for the workshop and also their increased level of confidence. The medical students have positively evaluated the teaching by the midwifery students and felt that it lowered their anxiety going into the labour environment. Both Schools have recognised the benefits of this form of inter-professional education and have subsequently made a commitment to embed it within each curriculum.