

Collaborative Effort to Establish Comprehensive and Effective Core Curriculum for ICUs

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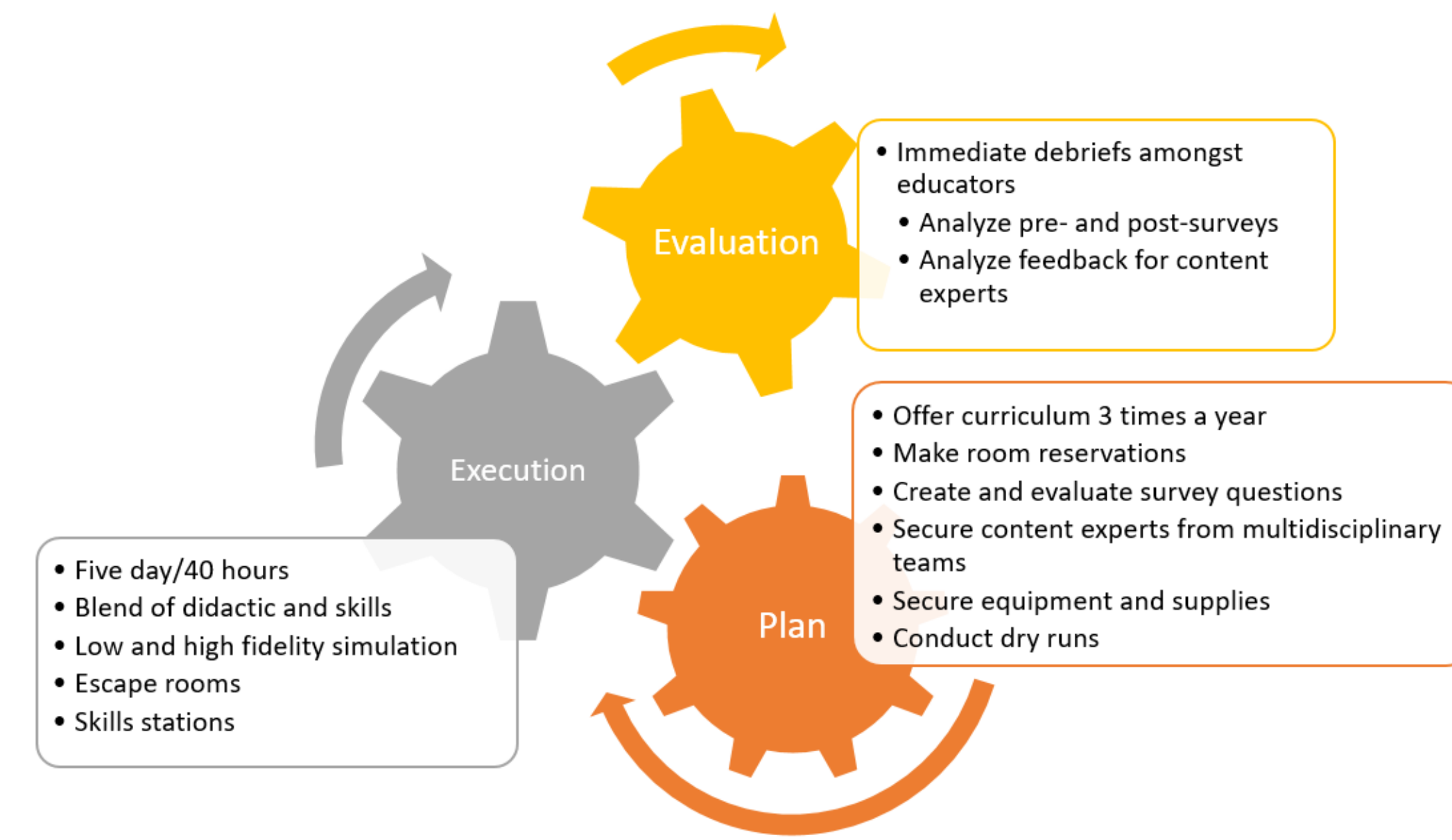
Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio

Background

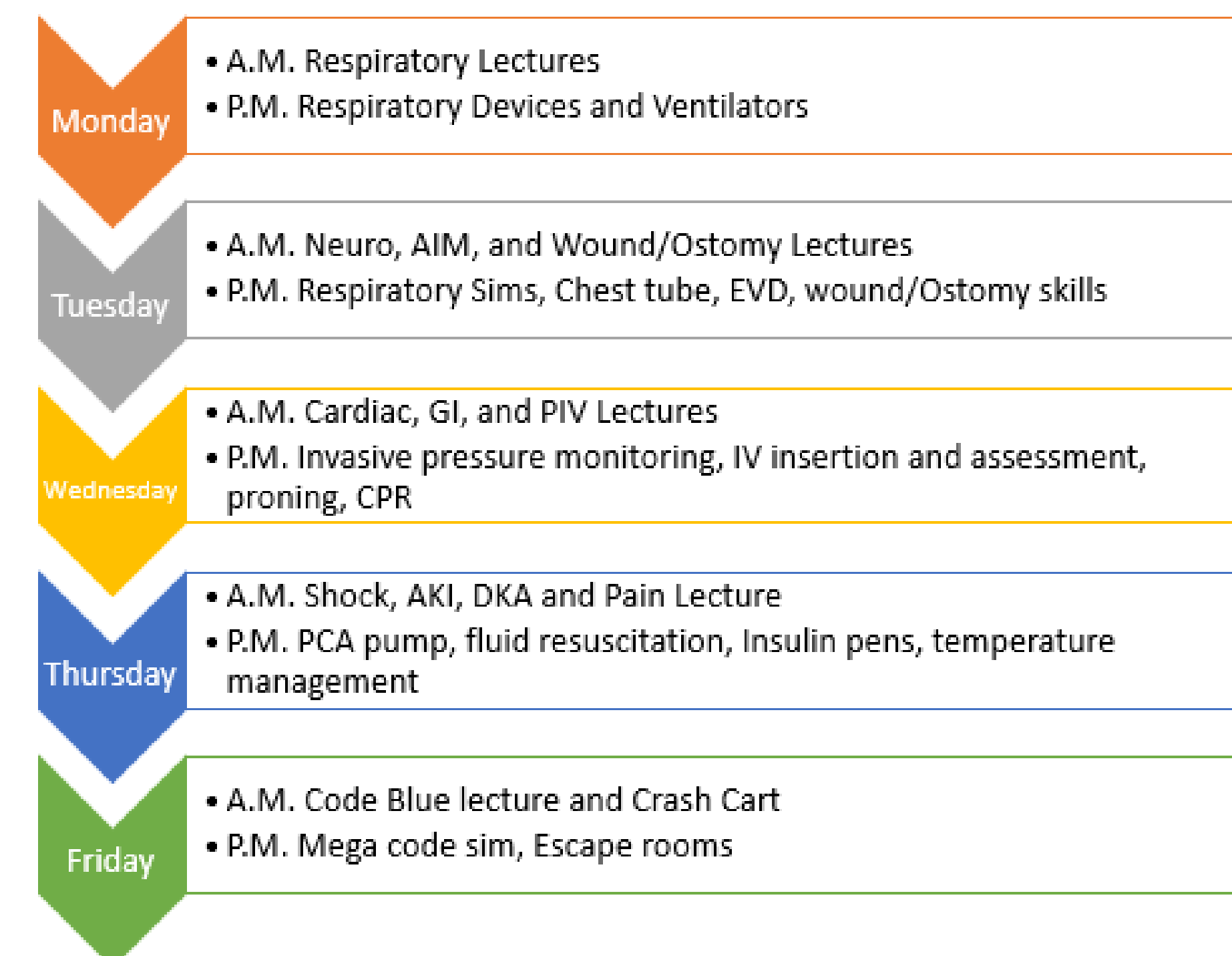
This collaborative initiative involved three Intensive Care Units (ICUs) within a pediatric institution to create and implement a comprehensive core curriculum for new ICU nurses.

- Rapid nurse turnover also resulted in fewer experienced nurses acting as preceptors, thus adding another layer of strain on training new nurses in the critical care environment.
- New graduate nurses who work in critical care areas are expected to care for patients who are sicker and more complex than ever.
- Caring for these patients requires new critical care nurses to have a high level of critical thinking and clinical judgment.
- A centralized critical care core curriculum, rather than unit-based classes, has been reported as advantageous to standardization of educational contents, reduction of redundancy, and increased effectiveness in learning.

Strategies



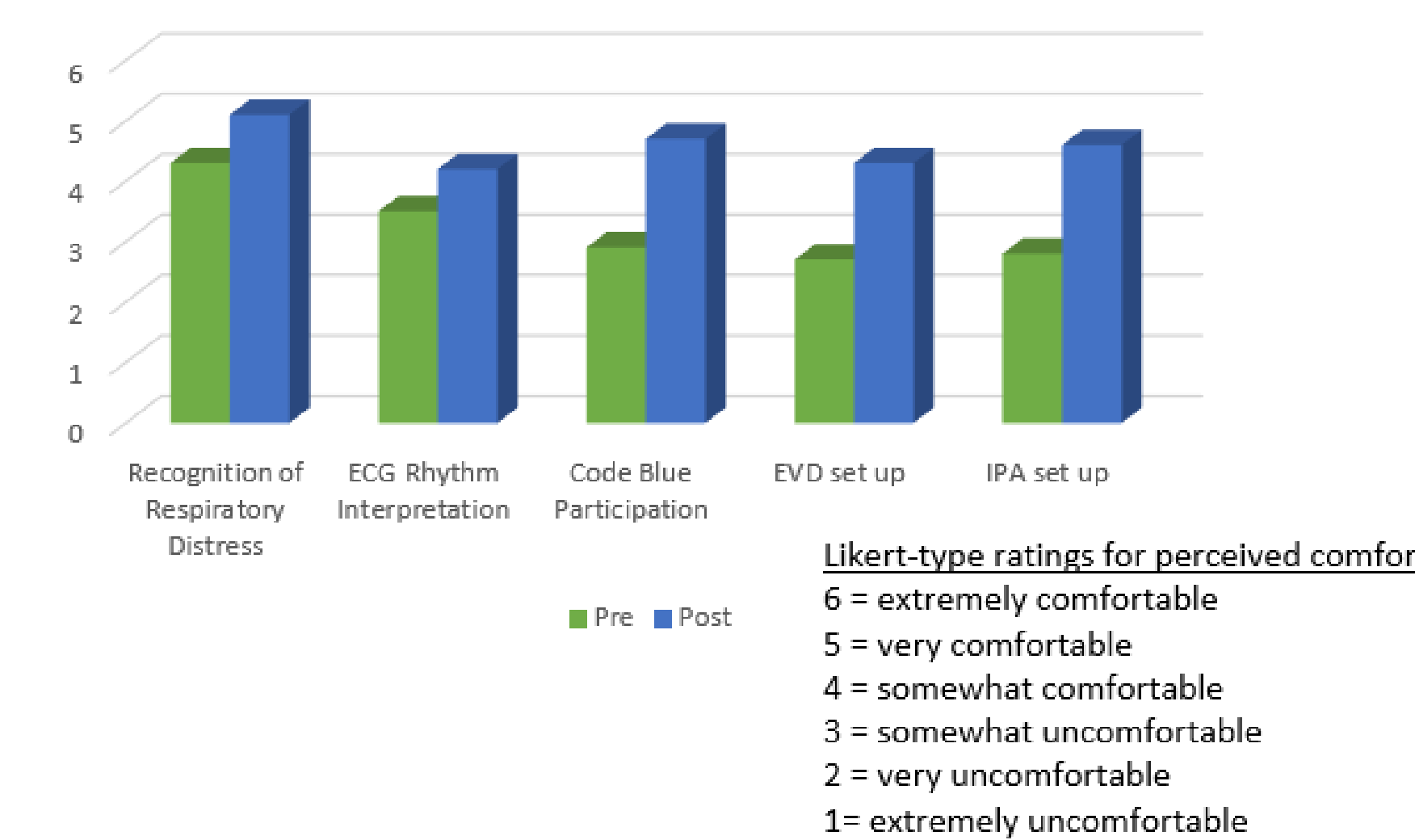
Curriculum Schedule



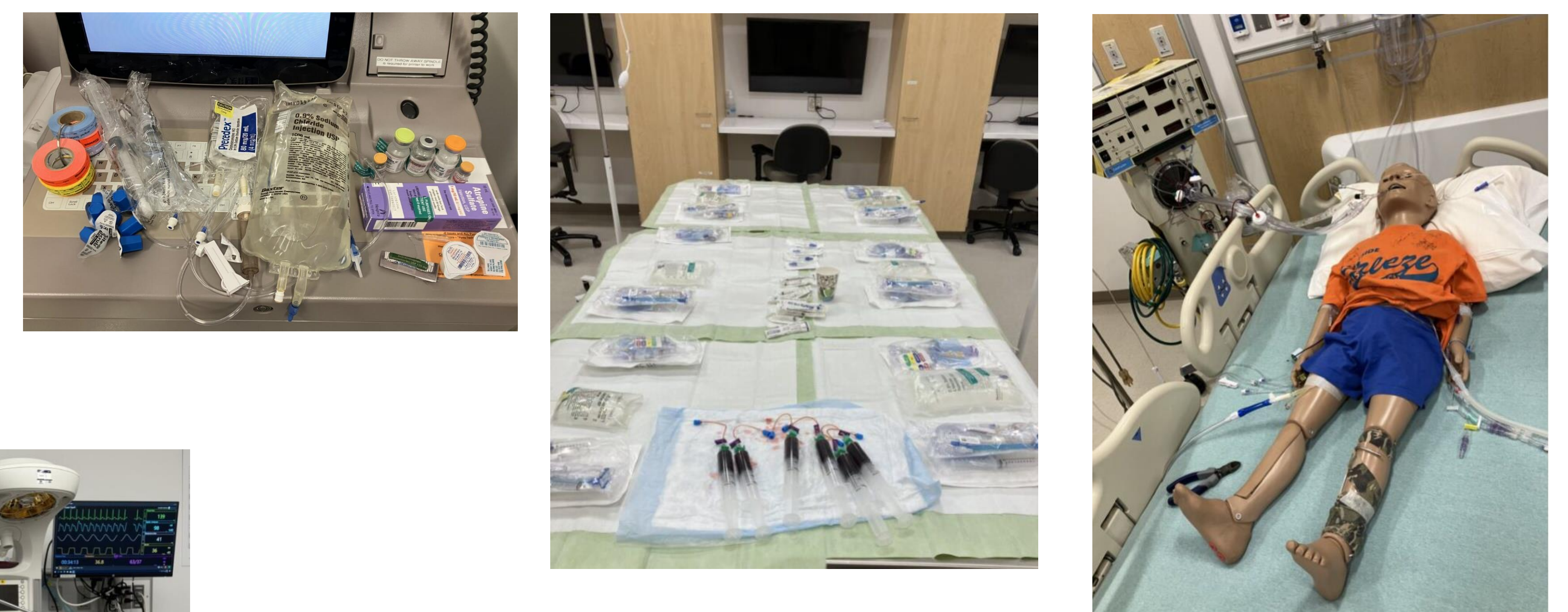
Outcomes

- Fifteen specialty content experts participated
- Four high-fidelity simulations implemented
- Utilized two escape rooms to validate retention of knowledge and skills taught
- Improvement in perceived comfort for all 17 skill areas
- Increased correct responses among eight of 11 knowledge questions in the post-survey

Pre- and Post Perceived Comfort Level Change (n=38)



Skills Session Set-up



Conclusions

This joint effort among ICUs with different foci allowed for new nurses to enter critical care areas having similar core competencies while setting forth precedence for continued future collaboration amongst the three critical care areas.

Local Problem

In Nationwide Children's Hospital, a 551-bed pediatric institution, critical care classes for new hires are not offered through centralized nursing education.

- Each ICU provided educational activities through preceptorship and unit-based classes.
- Consistency in core contents was lacking.
- Core knowledge at the completion of orientation was variable amongst the units.
- Minimal collaboration amongst three ICUs regarding new hire onboarding.

In 2022, the original one-week long critical care core curriculum for new hires was put together by the three ICUs with content experts from multidisciplinary teams. While the original core curriculum served as a backbone of the current curriculum, it required refinement and a robust evaluation method for tracking the effectiveness of the curriculum.

References

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