



Creating Staff Engagement in Mandatory Education Using an Escape Room Challenge

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Clinical Issue

Insufficient staff engagement during routine simulation-based exercises prevents knowledge retention and assimilating new concepts into their thought processes and everyday functions to promote superior patient outcomes.

Description of Team

The team included Perioperative Nurses, Surgical Technicians, First Assists, nursing leadership, the Perioperative Educator, and the Anesthesia Technician.



Preparation and Planning

Annually, the Surgical Services team completes an airway fire simulation to demonstrate competency. The Perioperative Educator incorporated an escape room into the mock scenario to stimulate involvement and sustain attention. Ideas for the escape room were sourced from virtual education platforms, Pinterest, and Google searches, paired with information from AORN's Fire Safety Toolkit.

Assessment

The Perioperative Educator reported time, monetary resources, and didactic content as barriers to presenting educational opportunities staff members perceive as stimulating and encourage participation.

Implement

The staff entered a vacant operating room, were "locked" inside, and presented a scenario.

The group was inside the tomb of the great pharaoh Rameses. He was undergoing surgery to preserve his youth, and his airway caught fire. Five puzzles were presented to the staff. Each puzzle covered an intraoperative fire prevention question. After solving each puzzle, the staff would receive an action to extinguish the airway fire. The team had to place the steps in the correct sequence to obtain the code to save the pharaoh and exit the room.

Outcomes

The staff evaluations of the educational activity demonstrated increased knowledge retention and participant satisfaction.

The escape room proved to be a low-cost, effective training tool to drive engagement and increase participation.

Staff Evaluation Tool

Escape Room Survey
Answer the Next Question

1. I found the escape room fire drill interesting. **
Mark only one oval: 1 2 3 4 5
Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

2. The escape room game helped me pay attention during the airway fire drill. **
Mark only one oval: 1 2 3 4 5
Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

3. I will incorporate what I learned during the escape room challenge into my daily practice. **
Mark only one oval: 1 2 3 4 5
Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

4. I feel the escape room will help me to remember how to rescue a patient from an airway fire. **
Mark only one oval: 1 2 3 4 5
Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

Implications

Escape rooms are a versatile gaming platform with endless opportunities educators can incorporate into didactic lessons and mock scenarios across multiple disciplines.

References

AORN Fire Safety Tool Kit. <https://www.aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/tool-kits/fire-safety-tool-kit> [registration required]. Accessed May 17, 2021

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