

Martin Thomas and Kim McQueen

Biography

Martin has worked within the field of Manual Handling since 1999, starting his career with a Degree in Design Engineering and Ergonomics. He then focused on healthcare, studying to be a Radiographer in 1995. In practice, he became department lead in Manual Handling and Trust Trainer. Following post graduate studies in the School of Health Science at Southampton University, he worked freelance as a Manual Handling Advisor. He returned to the NHS in 2002 to work full time as Trust Manual Handling Adviser. Martin has presented at conference on bariatrics patient handling at the Huntleigh Healthcare Forum 2005 and The National Back Exchange concurrent session entitled "Moving a Bariatric Patient within an Acute Care Setting". More recently presenting "Changing Practice in the Theatre Environment" at the Association for Preoperative Practice, 2007 annual congress in Harrogate.



Kim trained in the South Edinburgh School of Nursing, qualifying as a RGN in 1979, following registration Kim worked in the trauma theatre at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh for 1 year. In 1980 Kim moved to Swansea, South Wales where she continued to work in theatre as a scrub practitioner until 2002 when she was appointed into her present role as Theatre Specialist Trainer. Kim has always had an interest in teaching and assessing in the clinical area, which has led her to obtain a FETC, PGCE, D32/33/34, and has most recently completed a BA(Hons) in post compulsory education and training.

Training Interventions in a Specialist Area

To give insight into the effect of different training models within a specialist area, using theatres as an example. The session will briefly examine 6 years work, looking at why some training models failed. Delegates will be given insight into the use of participatory ergonomics intervention, which ultimately led to a dramatic change in practice.

Background

The choice of an organisation wide training program to address the manual handling training needs of some 9000 staff is a challenging one! When you analyse different speciality, the complexity of different patient groups, methods of working, tasks, environments, management styles etc it would seem impossible that one training method would be able to meet all needs. It is then somewhat understandable why organisations faced with these challenges and having to meet their legal obligations choose the generic classroom based approach.

Theatre is an area with complex manual handling training needs, which are not easily met with generic manual handling training. At the time of the intervention there were 28 theatres, on 2 sites, with 500 multi-disciplinary staff, one major Trauma unit, and surgical specialties including: - Cardiac, Urology, Neurosurgery, General/Vascular, Maxilla-facial, Orthopaedics, Plastics, Ophthalmology, Colo-rectal, Obstetrics and Gynaecology,

The presentation will look at the Trust wide training intervention, followed by a focus on theatre as an excellent example of an area which has adopted the participatory ergonomics approach. The sessions will highlight the findings of internal audit led by Dr Matthew Turner, Consultant Anaesthetist, of manual handling training and injuries amongst anaesthetists, which in turn led to further change and the development of a manual handling training course specifically for anaesthetists. The session will then conclude with the innovative practical solutions to time old manual handling problems found within the theatre environment.