

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT?

THE EFFECT OF INCREASED MEDICAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (MICU) WORK EXPOSURE AND TRAINING ON INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENTS READINESS TO TRANSITION TO THE ROLE OF SENIOR RESIDENTS ON-CALL

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BACKGROUND

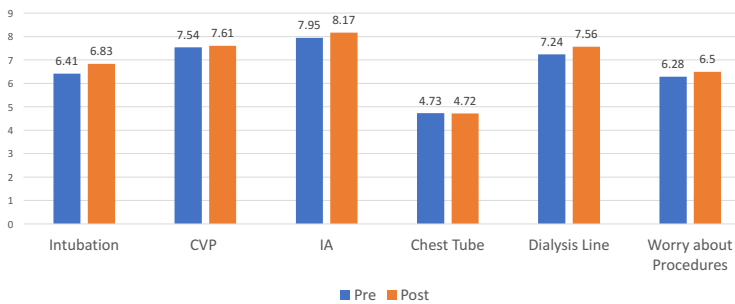
Internal Medicine (IM) training in Singapore adopted the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) framework for residency in 2010. A recent survey amongst exiting IM residents showed significant concerns when transitioning to the role of senior resident (SR) on-call, especially in the MICU. **This resulted in an increased duration of MICU posting and a compulsory MICU crash course, which includes training in invasive procedures and management in the MICU setting.** We intended to evaluate the effect of this increased exposure and training on residents' readiness to take on the role of Senior Residents on-call.

METHODS

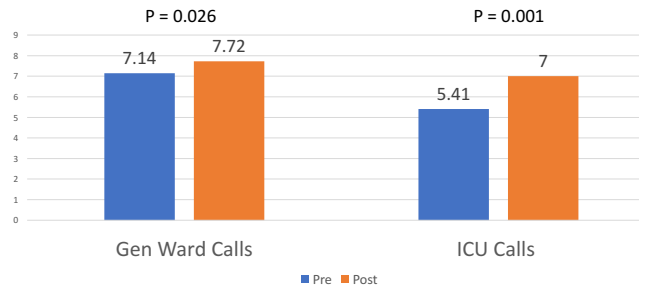
An online survey had been carried out in **2015** to evaluate residents' **readiness to start Senior Residency**, and was repeated in **2017** following the abovementioned changes. The survey evaluated **demographics, postings experience, confidence with procedures, clinical decision-making and communications.** A 9 point Likert scale (0 'completely disagree' to 9 'completely agree') was used. The survey was distributed via email to final-year residents in the National Healthcare Group IM Residency Programme. Responses were voluntary and anonymous.

RESULTS

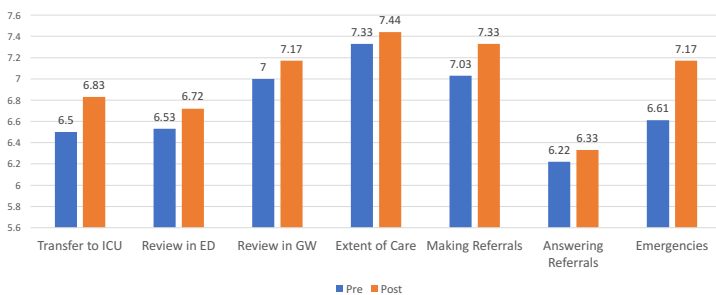
I am confident in performing the following procedures



The NHG IM Residency Programme has prepared me for



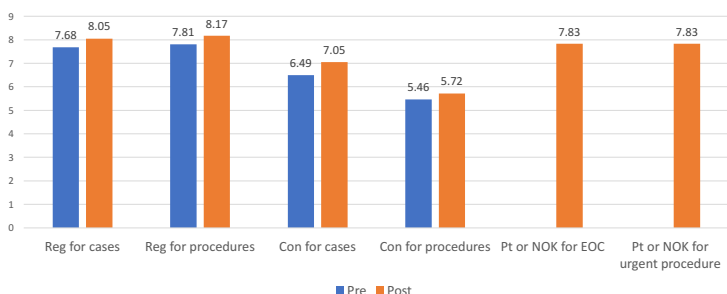
I am confident I will make the correct decisions



18 residents responded to the survey (compared to 37 in 2015); 50% were male and 72.2% graduated locally.

A Mann-Whitney test indicated that the scores for the questions "The NHG IM Residency Programme has prepared me for General Ward calls" (p=0.026) and "MICU calls" (p=0.001) were greater in 2017 than in 2015.

I am confident in communicating with:



CONCLUSIONS

The institution of changes to the Residency Programme syllabus, skills training and clinical postings experience resulted in an improvement in scores indicating an increased preparedness for SR calls, and increased scores in confidence for SR tasks.

The importance of **experiential learning** and **continued growth** as practising physicians were underlined in this study.