The Impact of the Accreditation Process on Multidisciplinary Simulation and Skills Centre (MDSSC)

Ho LY(1), So HKE(1), Ng WYG(1), Yu WL(1), Chan CKW(1), Leung SHA(1), Lo CYA(2)
(1) Multi-disciplinary Simulation and Skills Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hospital (2) Cluster Chief Executive, Kowloon Central Cluster

Keywords:
Accreditation
Simulation

Introduction
One way to improve patient safety and healthcare quality is through accreditation. The Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) is the largest non-profit simulation organization in the world focused on improving performance and reduce errors in patient care through simulation. To achieve accreditation in the area of teaching and education, the Multidisciplinary Simulation and Skills Centre (MDSSC) at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) had to demonstrate that it met the standards for teaching and education.

Objectives
To evaluate how the accreditation process helps: (1) introduce organizational changes in MDSSC and (2) develop the high quality and standards of simulation training programs.

Methodology
MDSSC was established in April 2011. It is the simulation training centre of QEH which under the governance of QEH, Hospital Authority. Up to September 2013, more than 330 simulation and skill training courses have occurred for healthcare professionals and trainees. In order to enhance the quality standard of simulation training program, the first step was to restructure the operational process. The process included (1) reorganizing the duties and responsibilities of the staffs at the administration level; (2) establishing a MDSSC Curriculum Committee to evaluate submitted curriculum proposal at a standard level; (3) developing a database management system; and (4) strengthen the support to course coordinators and instructors at all levels. In October 2013, MDSSC has applied for SSH accreditation. The accreditation process included: (1) register and complete an electronic
application to SSH; (2) submit a self-study accreditation review and “Core Standards” report to SSH; (3) application under review by SSH accreditation staff; (4) complete a full-day site visit by SSH experts; and (5) determine the final accreditation status by SSH Accreditation Board of Review.

Result
The MDSSC has received accreditation by the SSH in May 2014. MDSSC is the first simulation program in Hong Kong to receive this accreditation and is the second centre accredited by SSH in Asia. The strengths listed in our “Core Standards” report were: (1) program is organized to adequately support mission; (2) a very thorough policy and procedure manual; (3) consistently delivered development opportunities within the program; (4) well developed process for reviewing simulation curricula by MDSSC Curriculum Committee. Therefore, achieving recognition from SSH acknowledges MDSSC benchmark, and affirms it has the high quality simulation programs and program management.