10-4-2019

Does Patient Age and Criticality Affect the Paramedic Student's Opportunity to be a Team Leader?

Josh Lopez
John Meyer
Adam Alford
Elizabeth Todak
Kyra Wicklund

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hsc_ed_day

Recommended Citation
Lopez, Josh; John Meyer; Adam Alford; Elizabeth Todak; Kyra Wicklund; Kevin Loughlin; William Camarda; Marilee Rosensweig; Lynne Fullerton; and William Robertson. "Does Patient Age and Criticality Affect the Paramedic Student's Opportunity to be a Team Leader?" (2019). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hsc_ed_day/42

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Health Sciences Center Events at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in HSC Education Day by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.
Authors

This poster is available at UNM Digital Repository: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hsc_ed_day/42
Does patient age and criticality affect the paramedic student’s opportunity to be a team leader?

**Background**
- Paramedic students must act and demonstrate competency as team leader in prehospital patient care encounters to successfully graduate their paramedic program.
- Previous research has shown that the higher acuity of the patient encounter, the student’s likelihood to lead decreased (Gosford et al., 2010).
- Whether patient age and acuity affects students opportunity to act as team lead has not been studied.

**Objective**
The objective of this research was to determine if the age of the patient and the criticality of the patient affected the student’s frequency and likelihood of team leads.

**Methods**
- A retrospective review of student records from FISDAP®, a national online emergency medical services (EMS) student tracking system, was completed.
- The database provided 537,343 patient encounters, among 5,720 students from January 2010 to December 2018.
- Team lead was determined by whether students selected the “I was the (Successful) Team Leader” box during patient documentation.
- Age was divided into subgroups of patients less than 18 years old and by patient’s older than 18 years old.
- Criticality was divided by color categories, as available in FISDAP by the following definitions:
  - “Green - non-critical ambulatory”
  - “Yellow – illness/injuries not yet life threatening”
  - “Red – critical, life-threatening illness/injury”
  - “Black – patient dead on arrival” (Excluded from analysis)

**Results**
- Paramedic students were the team leader for 43.7% (n=234,961) of all critical encounters.
- Paramedic students encountered 66,777 patients under the age of 18 (12.4% of all encounters) and led 30.3% (n=20,245) of those interactions.
- Students encountered 33,416 “green” patients, 20,663 “yellow” patients and 5,711 “red” patients (total = 59,790).

**Conclusions**
- Paramedic students led less pre-hospital patient encounters than previous studies in past time frames have shown.
- Paramedic students received even less opportunities to lead with pediatric patients.
- Paramedic students led a higher percentage of critical encounters than lower acuity, non-critical encounters.
- Paramedic students led a similar amount of “Age 0” encounters across criticalities; students, comparatively, did not lead a similar amount of “Age 13-18” encounters across criticalities.
- Students are significantly less likely to lead younger patient encounters across all levels of criticality.