Background
The NHS has seen many changes over the last few decades. Staff on general wards are now caring for patients who traditionally were managed on high dependency settings. Healthcare practitioners working on general wards are required to have more developed knowledge and skills to apply to their rapidly changing workload however; ‘Suboptimal care of severely ill patients before admission to intensive care was common.’ (McQuillan et al, 1998, p1857).

The University of Huddersfield have responded by providing a 60 credit honours level course for staff working on general wards, which includes the following two modules:

Module HHN 1243: Assessment, care and management of an Acutely Ill Patient (40 credits)

Module HHN 1242 Professional Principles underpinning Acute Clinical Practice (20 credits)

The Students are given the opportunity to explore, analyse & debate current and underpinning healthcare issues and apply these issues to their own clinical practice.

Timetabled sessions include:
- Ethical & Legal dilemmas
- Breaking bad news
- Critical thinking
- Accountability

Mid Term evaluation comments include:
- Confidence building, ‘especially when dealing with poorly patients’.
- ‘I didn’t realise how much I didn’t know’
- ‘Thoroughly enjoying and learning lots’
- Able to influence topics discussed

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References