



Improving the ICU Medical Student placement: An 'A to E and beyond' workbook

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1. Introduction

- The Whittington Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU) had not previously hosted a formal Medical Student placement
- ICU can be a daunting environment for students with many very unwell patients and complex associated presentations, investigations and management steps
- Junior Doctors are often busy during student placements, which can unfortunately sometimes limit teaching opportunities
- We observed that these three combined factors may be negatively impacting educational experience of the placement.
- We believed an educational workbook to accompany the placement could provide structure and fill spare student time with valuable learning and discussion topics

2. Objective

To improve the overall educational experience for Fourth Year Medical Students undertaking a placement in the Whittington Hospital ICU department

3. Methods

- Questionnaires were sent to 17 students who had their ICU placement prior to January 2021- we requested general feedback plus opinion on educational experience and potential value of an ICU workbook
- A paperless GoogleDocs ICU workbook was then produced to accompany the placement post January 2021
- The workbook covered topics related to an 'A to E and beyond' format of assessment of critically unwell ICU patients and encouraged MDT interaction and independent review of patients – scan the QR code in the top right of poster to view
- Figure 1** shows example pages from the workbook
- Questionnaires were then sent to 25 students who had their placement with the addition of the workbook- we again requested general feedback plus opinion on educational experience and value of the workbook

4. Results

- 7/17 students who had their placement pre-workbook introduction responded to the questionnaire compared to 11/25 students who had their placement post-workbook introduction
- Prior to introduction of the workbook, 42% of respondents rated the educational experience of their placement as 'Good' or 'Excellent'- this figure increased to 82% following introduction of the workbook (**Figure 2**)
- Pre-workbook introduction in January 2021, **100%** of respondents agreed that an ICU workbook would be a valuable placement addition- this was mirrored by **100%** of respondents who had their placement with the workbook agreeing it was a valuable addition
- Our project was also able to generate ideas for future ways to improve the placement (**Figure 3**)

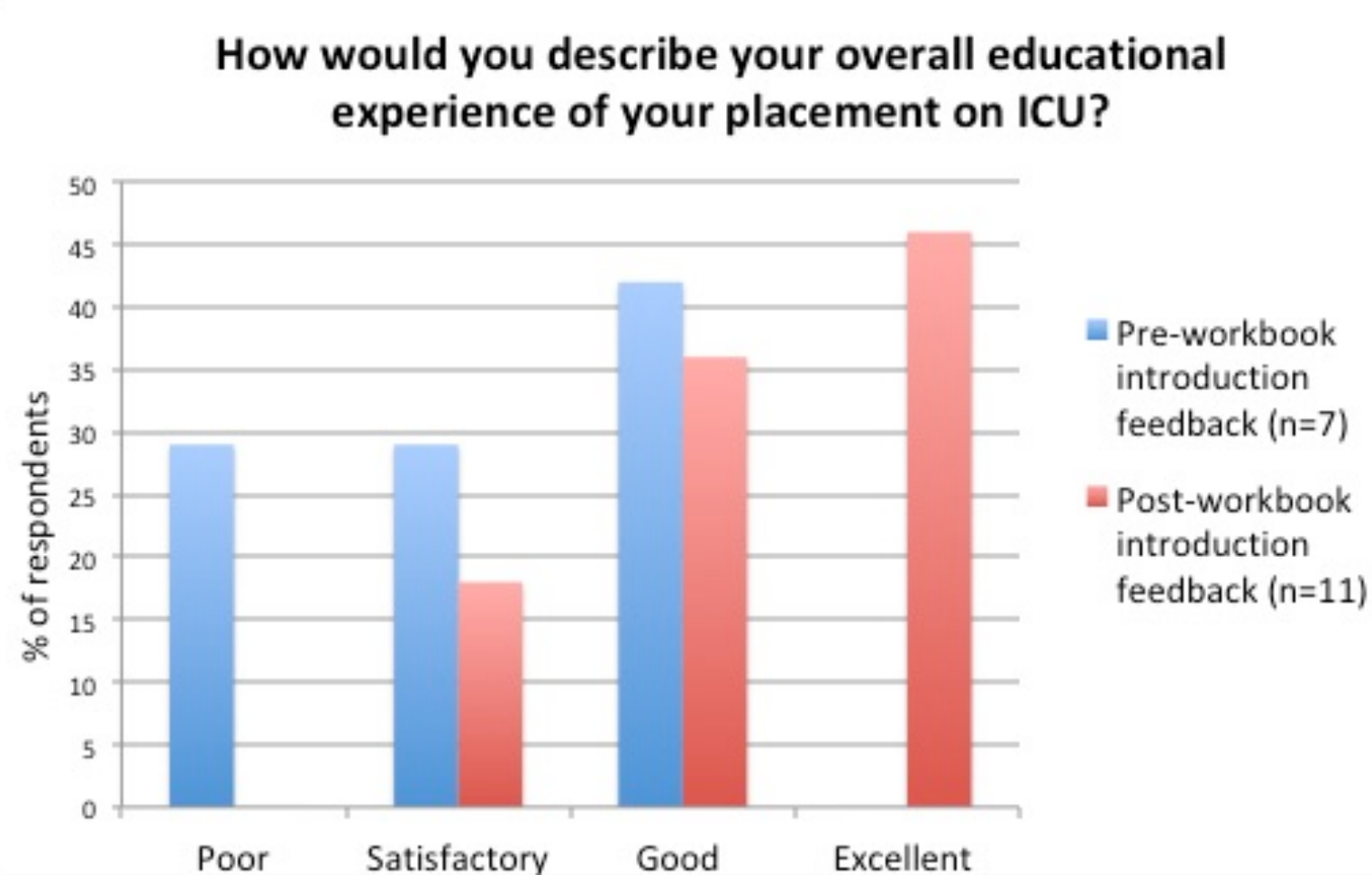


Figure 2: Feedback on placement educational experience

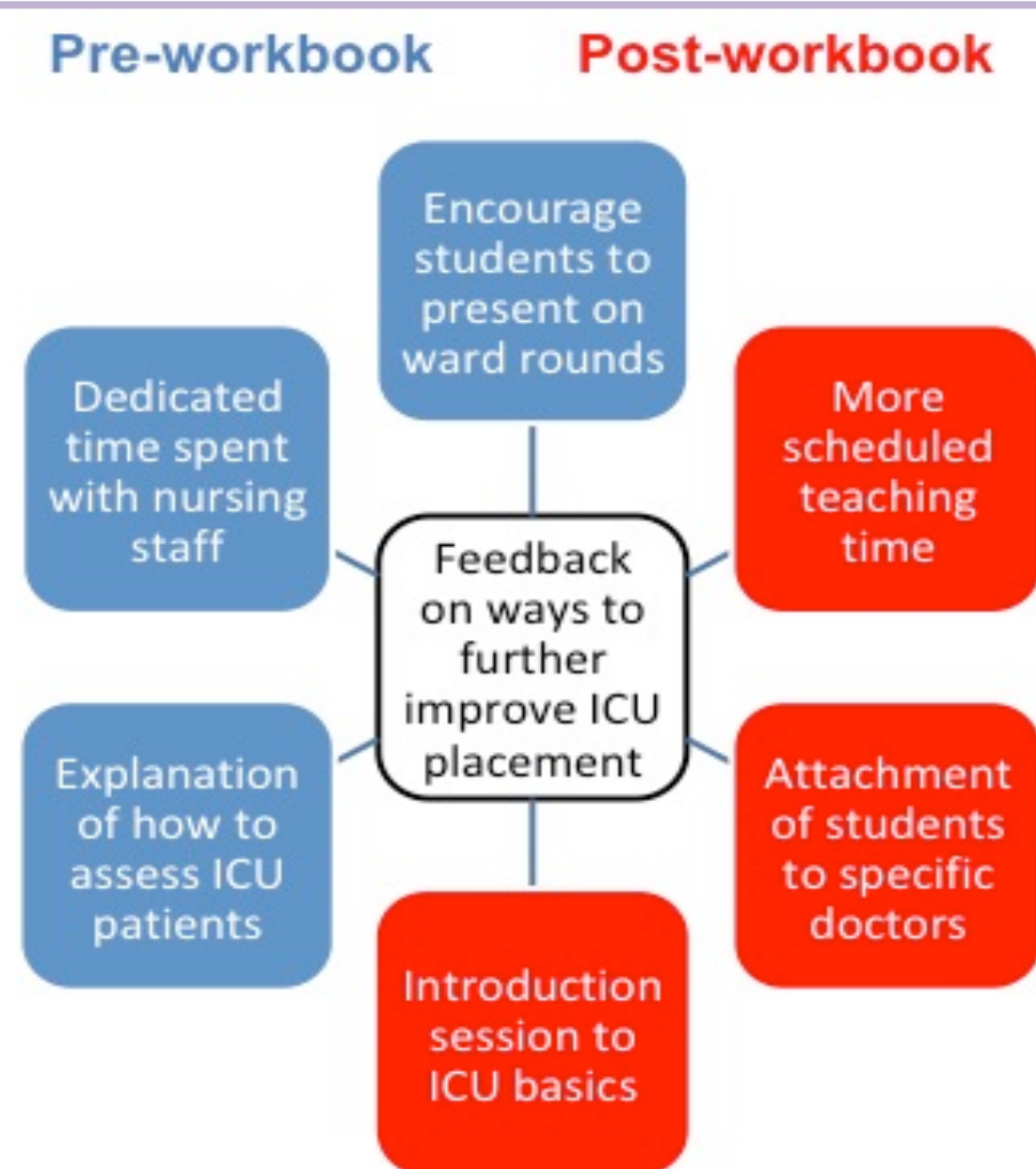


Figure 3: Feedback on how to improve placement

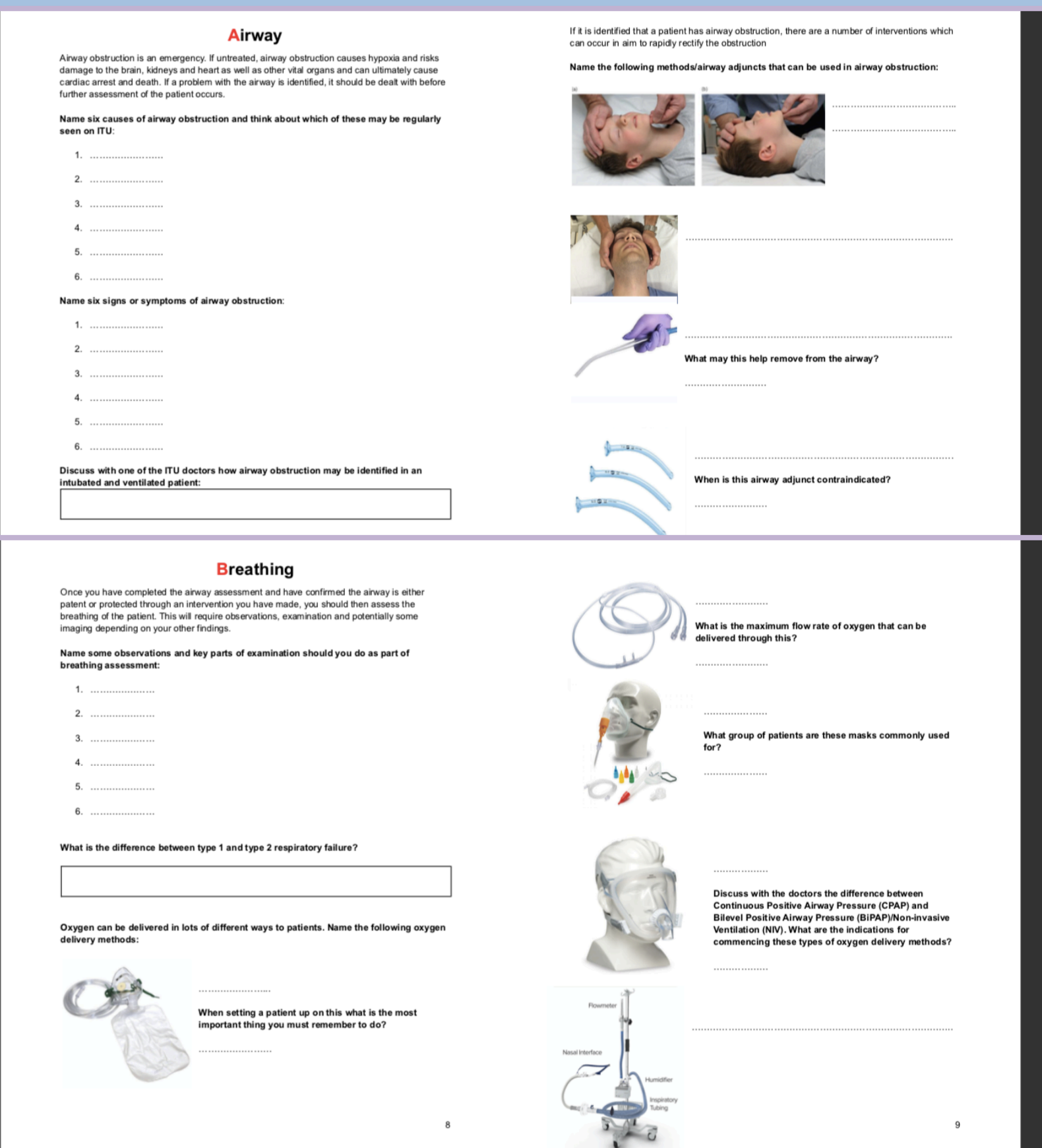


Figure 1: Beginning of 'Airway' and 'Breathing' sections

5. Conclusions

- Our project was able to both address and generate ways to improve the ICU placement
- Feedback suggested that student perception of the educational experience of the ICU placement improved after introduction of the workbook and students unanimously found it to be a valuable resource
- Limitations included a poor response rate and variable staff promotion of use of the workbook
- Future steps include promoting use of the workbook in other ICU departments nationally (email contact above)