

GRAND ROUNDS

Life can change in an instant and when a serious mishap occurs, RVH is always prepared to handle emergency cases.

Members of your local emergency care team recently completed a comprehensive Rural Trauma Team Development Course (RTTDC) taught by emergency nursing staff and physicians from the regional trauma centre at The Ottawa Hospital, Civic Campus.

Dr. Kristian Davis, Medical Director of the RVH Emergency Department says the course held on Saturday, February 16, was fully booked and presented a series of live and simulated incidents focused on the assessment, resuscitation and transfer of trauma patients.

“Some of the content served as a mini-review for the participants and presented a lot

of new material relevant to practising trauma care in a rural facility,” says Dr. Davis.

Seventeen of our emergency room nurses, six local paramedics, one medical student, one respiratory therapist and one of RVH’s newest physicians, Dr. Jennifer Arcand, took part in the lectures and situational practices.

Dr. Arcand specialized in Emergency Room Care as part of her medical training and says this was a great course focusing on trauma in a rural setting.

“It put a lot of focus on a team approach to trauma in the emergency department and how everyone plays an important role in trauma management. It allowed us to identify ways that each and every health care provider can contribute to helping stabilize

the trauma patient prior to transfer. It also allowed us to identify any issues we face specifically at RVH that may impact the management of a trauma patient.”

She was also impressed to hear RTTDC course coordinator, Melissa Waggot, point out that the trauma cases they have received at The Ottawa Civic Hospital trauma centre from Renfrew have been managed extremely well, “which is a reflection on the excellent staff we have at RVH.”

RVH does see high rates of trauma patients when compared to other hospitals in the area according to Waggot, also an Ottawa Civic Hospital Registered Nurse.

“RVH is number three out of thirteen hospitals in our LHIN for trauma referrals,” Waggot states.

Once you enter a rural environment, you see that mortality rates increase dramatically, she says. The course teaches the importance of quick transfers from the paramedics, how to stabilize patients and how to transfer to the regional trauma centre.

The course was developed by the Rural Trauma Committee of the American College

of Surgeons and this was the first time it was taught in Eastern Ontario. The Ottawa team is now fully accredited to roll out the program to the other hospitals across the region.

Along with receiving accreditation, the professionals from the Civic also gained behind-the-scenes insights about the emergency procedures at RVH.

“One benefit is that we are taking people from our centre and showing them visually what is happening in Renfrew. They now have more of an understanding from a clinical context when they receive patients at our hospital,” says Waggot.

Throughout the day, Dr. Davis says the Renfrew team also created stronger ties among their colleagues in Ottawa. As of March 1, Ottawa began sending reports back to Renfrew on transfer cases, and that feedback about patient outcomes is very valuable, he says. “The fact that they are willing to do this for us, so we can bring it back to the nursing staff and referring physicians is a fantastic thing.”

