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Conference abstract

Course in Patient Safety at Lund University

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A course in Patient Safety was in autumn 2010 given by the Department of Design Sciences, Ergonomics and Aerosol Technology (EAT) at Lund University. One research and educational focus of EAT is human and organizational factors related to risk management. Together with stakeholders within healthcare the need for an increased education in patient safety was identified. A patient safety course was therefore developed with the aim to give increased insight and knowledge of the fundamental prerequisites (theoretical and practical) for achieving a high level of safety from a patient perspective. The aim of this poster is to present the course, its contents and pedagogical design as well as results from course members' project assignments giving insight into research needs within the area of patient safety. The course had twenty-three participants and consisted of six lecture days, a project assignment carried out in small groups and a final seminar where project results were presented. The lectures comprised topics such as cognitive limitations of humans, accident models, theories and models for risk and safety management and safety culture, and design of man-machine interface related to safety. After each lecture day, course members summarized the theory presented and made own reflections in connection to their individual workplaces. The project assignments were based on course members' own professional experiences, producing topics such as the purchasing process of medical equipment, feed-back from incident reporting, measuring of patient safety culture, stress from work, accident analyses from falls. Course evaluation was positive and members believed they had gotten increased knowledge in risk and safety management. Course members' work related reflections and project topics gave insights which may be transformed into research needs and questions. A new course will start in autumn 2011 and we hope for a mixture of course members with different professions in healthcare.