

# Safety Under Pressure

## Simulating Prioritisation and Escalation Under Interruption When Transitioning to FY1

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### 1 The Problem

The transition to FY1 is a recognised patient safety risk<sup>1,2</sup>

From day one, doctors must:

- Prioritise competing clinical demands
- Manage frequent interruptions
- Escalate deteriorating patients<sup>3</sup>

This represents a modifiable patient safety gap at the point of transition

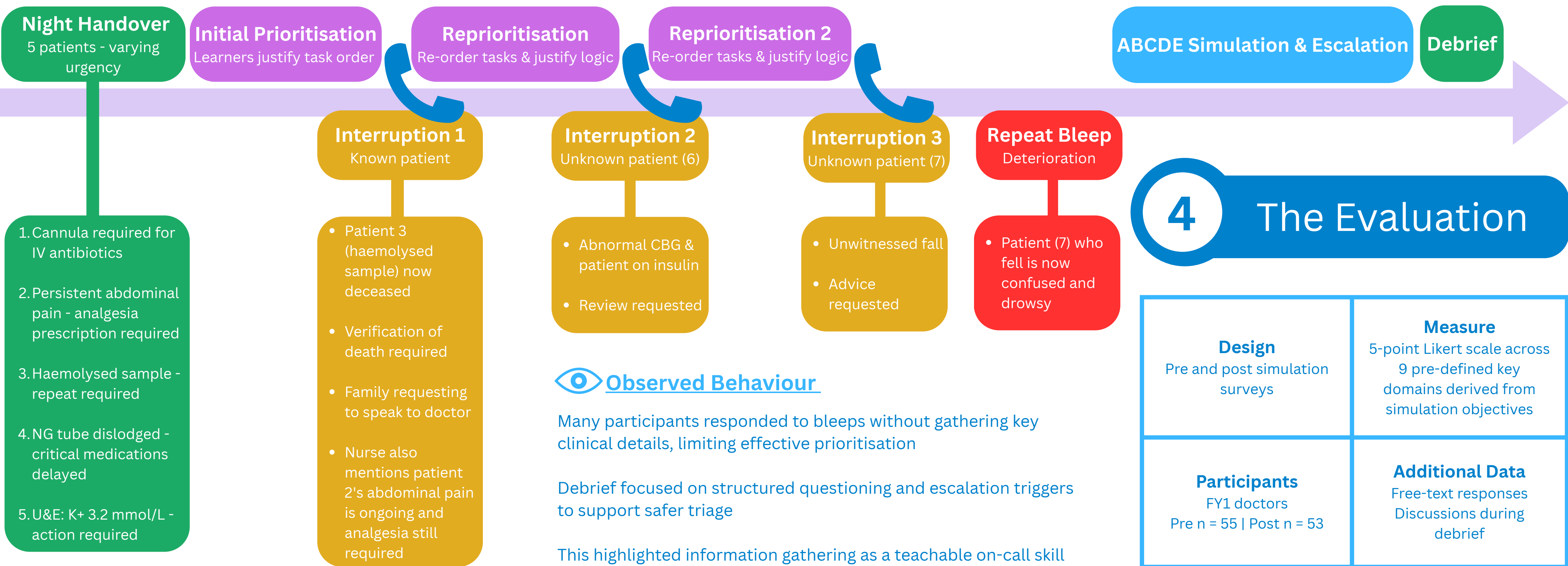
### 2 The Aim

To measurably improve FY1 confidence across 9 key domains:

- Communication
- Escalation
- Delegation
- Prioritisation
- Task tracking
- Time management
- Justifying decisions
- Managing interruptions
- Situational awareness

### 3 The Intervention

We recreated the cognitive reality of a nightshift via simulation

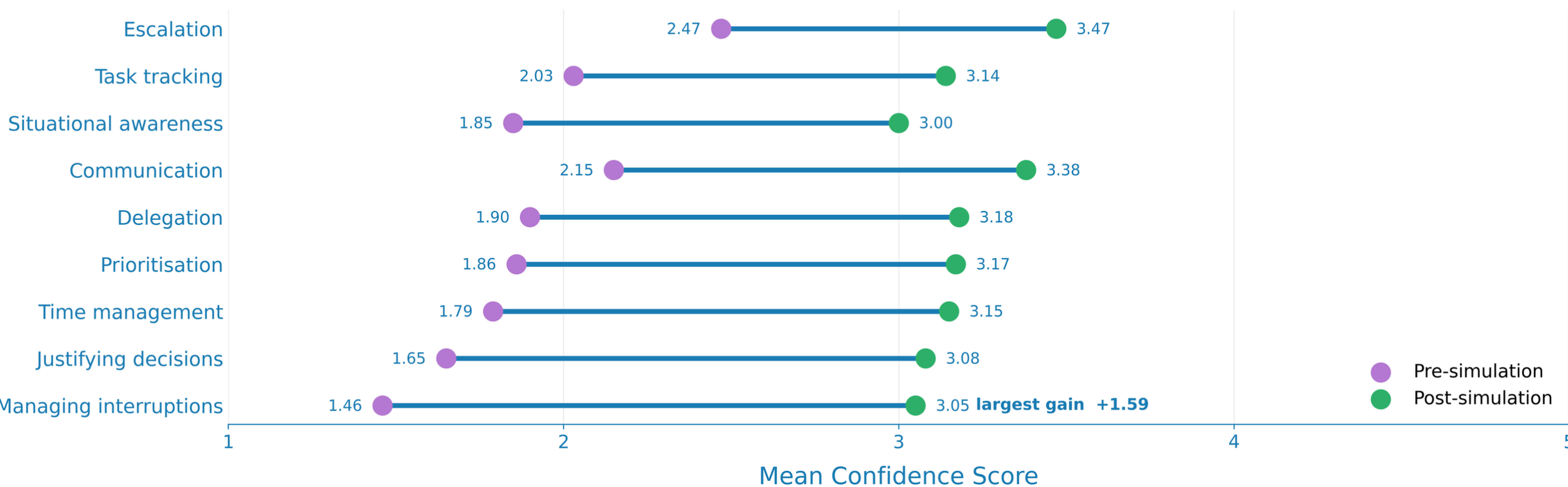


### 4 The Evaluation

<b>Design</b> Pre and post simulation surveys	<b>Measure</b> 5-point Likert scale across 9 pre-defined key domains derived from simulation objectives
<b>Participants</b> FY1 doctors Pre n = 55   Post n = 53	<b>Additional Data</b> Free-text responses Discussions during debrief

### 5 The Impact

Shift in FY1 On-Call Confidence



Confidence improved across all 9 key domains of on-call performance

**+0.99**  
**Mean Confidence Increase**  
(5-point Likert scale)

"I now know to ask more questions in order to appropriately prioritise and triage bleeps"

"The learning from this will be very beneficial for my first nightshift"

What this suggests:  
**Structured rehearsal of clinical chaos may support safer transition to practice**

### 6 The Spread & Sustainability



### 7 The Learning & Reflections

- ✓ Interruption management is teachable - it should not be an assumed trait
- ✓ The skill of reprioritisation under pressure can be honed by deliberate rehearsal
- ✓ A reasoning focused debrief can strengthen cognitive transfer
- ✓ Induction is a critical patient safety opportunity

References  
1. Illing J, Morrow G, Rothwell C, et al. Preparedness for practice: The views of medical graduates and clinical teams. Newcastle: Newcastle University; 2013.  
2. Monrouxe LV, Bullock A, Cole J, et al. How prepared are UK graduates for practice? *BMJ Open*. 2017;7:e013656.  
3. General Medical Council. *Outcomes for provisionally registered doctors*. London: GMC; 2024.