

Primary Trauma Care Foundation: Course Report

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Your Details

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People

Course Director	Palesa Chisala and Mulinda Nyirenda
Course Staff/Faculty	Mulinda Nyirenda and Sella Mpatu
Course Instructors	John Gawanika (Anaesthetic Clinical Officer), Palesa Chisala (General Surgeon), Vanessa Msosa (General Surgeon), Chifundo Kajombo(General Surgeon), Carlos Varela (General Surgeon) and Mulinda Nyirenda (Emergency Medicine),
Course Participants	22 Participants. Four from Blantyre Adventist Hospital, two from Partners in Health, One from Saint John's Hospital, One from Mzuzu Central Hospital, seven from Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital and eight from Kamuzu Central Hospital. Twelve were surgical residency trainees, 1 orthopaedic surgeon, 3 medical officers, 2 clinical officer, and 5 nurses.

Course Details

Executive Summary (achievements/problems/any additional background information)

This was the first PTC course for 2019. This course attracted a diverse group of participants from public and private health institutions. This helped us as facilitators and participants to share experiences more. The addition of nurses on the course was still an exciting development to us all. Three participants were actually participating on the PTC course for a second time as a self-initiated refresher training. They valued the course attendance and indicated that refresher course attendance should be encouraged. Overall, the course was a great success.

How did you prepare for the course(s) (e.g. printing, venue, invitations)

The training dates were organised to suit PTC faculty availability. Advertisement of the course was done in health professional social media platforms (whatsapp and facebook). We also directly contacted some health institution medical directors to consider sending clinicians and nurses. Institutions and some individual contributions to course expenses were made by participants. The course venue was Shalom Palace, which is located in the

outskirts of Blantyre city business district. All course materials were organised by PTC Malawi coordinator.

The faculty consisted of :

- 2 PTC Malawi south experienced faculty members (Mulinda Nyirenda and John Gawanika)
- 3 PTC Malawi central experienced faculty members (Carlos Varela and Chifundo Kajombo)
- 1 PTC faculty member (Palesa Chisala)
- 1 PTC faculty trainees– (Vanessa Msosa)

We had expected 3 other faculty trainees but they were not available on the days of the course.

Mulinda and John met the day before the Instructor's course for preparation. We decided to ensure more practical experience was in-cooperated in this session. We also realised we needed to mentor Palesa and Vanessa in their roles more actively on the course. We also ensured we used our experience to focus on areas that experienced faculty also overlook to enrich the instructor course engagement for Carlos and Chifundo. The participants loved the small group, scenarios and role-play, teaching communication, and delivering interactive sessions. Reflection after each session was reported as beneficial. At the end of the day, participant confidence levels had improved in their ability to deliver the PTC course.

The faculty then planned for the delivery of the PTC 2 day course using the 2015 PTC materials. Peer mentors were assigned for each instructor.

Details of Activities (any special arrangements or timing?)

The PTC course was delivered with a few adjustments to the course timetable template. On Day 1 when we opted to complete all lectures before proceeding into skills stations after tea break. The demonstration scenario on day 1 focused on primary survey conduct. We repeated the demonstration scenario on day 2, now doing both a primary and secondary survey. This helped participants focus and perform better in the scenarios practice. We have noted that it helps cement the learning for participants.

Outcomes (for each course please include number of people trained, their roles and the change in average MCQ/Confidence Matrix scores. For instructor courses, please also let us know which course materials you used).

All 23 participants attended the course to completion.

Average Pre-test score was 76.5%, Average Post-test score 91.9% and Average mark improvement 15%. This course had very high scores, as most participants were surgical trainees who were familiar with trauma care knowledge. Participants learnt more on the scenarios and valued the ability to translate knowledge into practice.

The confidence matrix showed an improvement in confidence to handle the trauma case scenarios evaluated as standards on the course. Handling a paediatric, a pregnant woman with trauma, and a burns injury had the least confidence scores in the pre course evaluation and improved considerably.

In the feedback, participants consistently raised the issue of learning how to be systematic in their evaluation of a trauma patient in their trauma case management in the workplace.

Evaluation Summary (what is your overall view of the success and relevance of this course?)

The course was a great success. It achieved its objectives by equipping the clinicians and nurses with the relevant skills to deliver trauma care effectively with minimum resources. Participants indicated that this was the first interactive trauma course they had engaged in and felt empowered to deliver the course. The participants emphasised on the need to train more Malawian health professionals on the course as valued it as a good trauma care course that encouraged teamwork.

The faculty performed well as a team and our new faculty trainee – Dr Vanessa Msosa appreciated the experience and valued the instructor course and mentorship as refreshing and empowering. Dr Palesa Chisala appreciated her mentored experience as a course director. All experienced faculty members felt enriched and learnt more skills in teaching PTC that could be translated into our other teaching roles.

Evaluation Report (list the team's answers from the post-course evaluation)

The course elements was graded as very well delivered by more than 80 % of the participants and the rest indicated the course content was delivered well.

The participants were appreciative of the hands-on experienced offered on the course – highlighting scenarios and workshops. Participants also appreciated learning about a systematic primary survey evaluation.

On query regarding what to improve on the course, the common request was to extend the time in which the course is delivered to allow more scenarios practice sessions.

Please supply details of any coverage by press, radio or TV

A PTC course advert shared on social media and facebook.
No press, radio or TV coverage was organised.

Acknowledgements (please give the names of people, institutions or donors that deserve special mention)

The Primary Trauma Care Malawi group who actively advertised and encouraged participants to participate on course. Sella Mpata who provided administrative support to Dr Mulinda Nyirenda administratively in course organisation

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