

Improving the patient experience in remote and rural Scotland – travels of the mobile unit

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The mobile skills unit (MSU) travels to different locations throughout Scotland enabling multi-professional simulated clinical skills training to be delivered to local work-forces. The MSU is dedicated to delivering education to healthcare practitioners in remote and rural Scotland thus helping to reduce inequalities of access and contributing to a sustainable healthcare system in these areas.

Each host designs their own training programme utilising the comprehensive simulation equipment onboard and including the state of the art medical observation and training system allowing valuable and informative feedback. The programmes are generally a mix of both national and local training courses. In addition online resources on a variety of clinical and procedural skills are also freely available, enabling the theory to be completed prior to the arrival of the unit thus maximising the use of the simulated equipment on board.

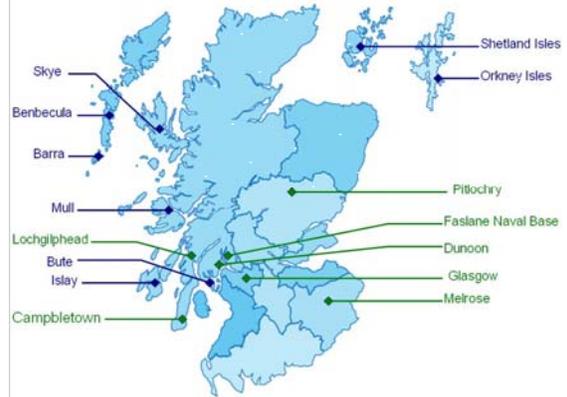


Figure 1. Summary of MSU visits – Island visits; Mainland visits

	No. of days training	No. of courses	No. of people trained
NHS Highland	57	77	288
NHS Shetland	17	13	137
NHS Orkney	10	20	107
NHS Western Isles	10	16	60
NHS Borders	9	10	89
NHS Tayside	7	8	35
NHS GG&C	5	2	15
Non-NHS Boards	2	5	10
Faculty Development	4	2	9
Total	121	153	750

Table 1. Visits of MSU by health board

From April 2011 to March 2012 the MSU visited 15 different venues in 7 different health boards (Fig. 1). Over 150 courses were delivered and 750 people were trained (Table 1). The majority of those trained (51%) were nurses and midwives. The emergency services (ambulance, paramedics, police and fire-fighters) accounted for 18% of those trained and medics and GPs accounted for 7% (Fig 2).

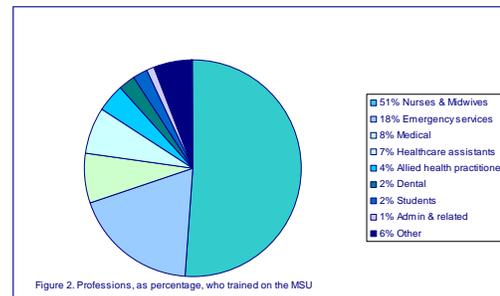


Figure 2. Professions, as percentage, who trained on the MSU

Courses held on MSU 2011/12:

- Life saving (basic, intermediate, advanced and paediatric)
- Emergency retrieval
- Paediatric emergency retrieval
- Recognition and management of a sick child
- Neonatal resuscitation and management
- Obstetric emergencies
- ECMO
- BEACH/ALERT
- Heartstart
- Resus training
- Medicines management

Courses held on MSU 2011/12:

- Cannulation
- Venepuncture
- Catheterisation
- ECG
- Suturing
- Wound management
- Chest drains
- Scenarios – emergency/trauma
- SAS training
- Emergency services training
- Stroke training
- Mental health training
- Palliative care training
- Pre-hospital STEMI
- Diabetes management



The continued use of the MSU enables the local workforce to maintain and learn skills to provide the necessary care to potentially improve patient safety in remote and rural Scotland.