Background Training and motivating more laypeople to respond to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is associated with improved OHCA survival rates. This study involved measuring the change in knowledge, attitudes and practice after a 60-minute CPR-AED training.

Method We administered pre-/post-training surveys to 337 participants who underwent CPR/AED training. McNemar’s and paired t-tests were used to analyse responses. Compression performance was measured during 2 compression performance rounds on the same day.

Results Favourable shift in knowledge was observed in post-training survey (p<0.001) as follows: ‘First thing to do...’ (pre 48.2% vs post 90.9%, p<0.0001); ‘Correct number to dial...’ (pre 88.4% vs post 99.7%, p<0.0001); ‘...after getting dispatcher on the phone...’ (pre 65.5% vs post 96.0%, p<0.0001); ‘...how deep to compress’ (pre 47.0% vs post 96.4%, p<0.0001); ‘...how fast to compress’ (pre 14.7% vs post 56.1%, p<0.0001). Attitudes improved towards CPR and AED use where 71.5% and 72.5% said that were likely due to undergoing the brief CPR/AED training. The increased average rate observed in the second round of compressions could be an effect of fatiguing.

Conclusion We observed favourable shifts in knowledge, attitudes and practice for CPR-AED use amongst our participants that were likely due to undergoing the brief CPR/AED training. The increased average rate observed in the second round of compressions could be an effect of fatiguing.

Conflict of interest None.
Funding Ministry of Health, Singapore.

Covid-19

Background The COVID-19 Ambulance Response Assessment (CARA) study was a prospective, longitudinal survey of UK ambulance staff providing both direct and remote patient care during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. CARA aimed to evaluate perceptions of preparedness and wellbeing, and to collect staff suggestions to benefit working practices and conditions.

Method Three online questionnaires were presented, coinciding with the acceleration, peak and deceleration phases of the first COVID-19 wave. Inductive thematic analysis was employed to represent 14,237 free text responses from 3,717 participants to 18 free-text questions overall.

Results A thematic framework was constructed from across the variety of questions that demonstrated participants’ objectives to minimise infection risks, maintain service delivery and support their own wellbeing. Additionally, the following requirements of national and organisational leadership were identified as enablers to achieving those objectives.

Evidence-based policies, that are consistently applied, clearly communicated and accompanied by adequate training improve confidence and allay anxiety. Demonstrating learning, planning, and astute use of resources will further benefit trust in leadership and to support staff wellbeing there must also be meaningful dialogue and demonstrable empathy with further appropriate preventative and therapeutic interventions enabled.

Conclusion Inclusive, compassionate leadership will support both ambulance staff wellbeing and service delivery whilst working within pandemic conditions. New working practices should be introduced with transparency and staff experiences of implementing changes should be heeded by leadership to enable further policy development.

Conflict of interest None.
Funding College of Paramedics.