



A Day in the Life of Matilda

Greetings friends!

For those of you I may not have met yet, I'm Matilda a high-fidelity simulation manikin. That means I am able to help act out emergency situations, just like I were a "real person." Like anyone else, I need a home and I'm lucky enough to have mine at Fort Memorial Hospital thanks to the Fort Memorial Hospital Foundation, who gave a Health Innovation Grant to the education department so I could help train all different levels of people in health care. My only job is to serve as a simulated patient so people can practice different skills on me. I like to say I'm an actress by trade.

To help you better understand what I am capable of I've asked my friends, Dawn Blanton, EMT-P and Rhonda Perdelwitz, RN, CDE, to give you an idea of what I can go through during a day on the job. In September 2010, I went to Schiller Ground Care in Johnson Creek, WI. This was an exciting day for me because it was the first time I worked outside of the hospital! So here are some highlights of my day:

Situation #1 – Chest Pain

- As the students (safety team members) came in, I got a lot of funny looks. (Probably because my mouth is in a perpetually open state!)
- Dawn led the group and introduced me to the class, reviewed basic First Aid and CPR.
- I was moved to the conference room while I suddenly experienced chest pain.
- A couple of employees started asking me questions and one went to call 911 and get the First Aid kit and AED.
- I did not want the ambulance to come but they convinced me that would be best.
- After the ambulance arrived, the students helping me discussed the time it took to get the First Aid kit and AED to the conference room and how could they as a group make that be better.

Situation #2 – Diabetic Emergency



- During my lunch break two students came into the lunch room where I was, again, not feeling well.
- I started yelling at them when they noticed my medical alert tag, which showed I have diabetes.
- After I told them I hadn't eaten, they grabbed my lunch box for some food and found a soda for me to drink, which helped with my low blood sugar level.
- Once I began feeling better, I apologized for being rude to them. How embarrassing!
- After the event ended, the students said it seemed like it took forever for me to start feeling better, even though it was really only about five minutes

for the whole incident.

- Then the group discussed whether I should I be going out on the floor to work again or be sent home, if I were a real employee.

Situation #3 – Chest Pain and Lost Consciousness



- After lunch I went into the classroom where I began having chest pain, again!
- I was sitting in a chair when three students came in and noticed I wasn't looking so good.
- When I told them about the pain, they were discussing who to call when I lost consciousness.
- From what I've been told, I went into cardiac arrest and they called 911 while the others got me on the floor.
- Two students began chest compressions and when the AED was ready, they shocked me.
- As I began regaining consciousness, Dawn announced that EMS had arrived.

- Afterward, they discussed how long it took to get the AED and how they fumbled with it due to nerves.

Situation #4 – Amputation



- As if I hadn't been through enough that day, I suddenly found myself on the floor of a tool room where my arm was amputated and there was quite a bit of blood.
- When the students came around the corner and found me, they were shocked!
- Immediately they went for the First Aid kit while one student talked to me to keep me calm.
- I continued screaming because I was scared, but he kept trying to keep my attention away from my arm.

- When the student with the First Aid kit arrived, they put on gloves and tried to control the bleeding as best they could until EMS arrived.
- I began feeling faint and responding more slowly, so they raised my legs until EMS could arrive.
- When EMS got there, the team discussed the different types of bandages and how to use each.
- They also realized that everyone needed to reacquaint themselves with the First Aid kit so they knew where everything was in a true emergency.

Overall the group thought I had done a great job in helping them prepare for medical emergencies at their work place. They were going to meet as a group to discuss more about safety improvements they could implement.

I hope this give you a better idea of what I do for training and may be some day I will get to meet you! Until then, I'm going to try to stay healthy, and with all of my limbs attached.

-Matilda