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Aim: Medical ward cover, particularly at night is often a daunting prospect for new FY1 doctors. Our focus group discussions highlighted that there were certain presentations FY1 doctors commonly encountered on nights that they felt inadequately prepared for. They also felt these areas were not addressed in their current teaching programme. This highlighted a gap in the teaching provided.

Methods: The majority of the pre-existing FY1 teaching programme is consultant led. We designed 3 teaching sessions for the FY1 doctors that each focused on a common encounter they might experience on nights. These included ‘Assessing a patient after a fall’, ‘Assessing a patient with delirium’ and ‘Assessing a patient with a low blood pressure’. These sessions were delivered by a core medical trainee who had also worked at the trust as an FY1. We felt that ‘near-peer’ teaching would be better appreciated by the FY1s since it would be easier for experiences to be shared and help the sessions to be more interactive.

Outcomes/ results: Anonymous feedback was collected from the junior doctors and analysed. Feedback was almost all positive. They liked that the teaching was relevant and clearly applicable to their jobs. They also liked that the teaching was delivered around a series of clinical cases as this was easier to engage with. Many of the junior doctors stated that they now felt more confident assessing patients with these presentations on nights.

Conclusions: Near-peer teaching for FY1 doctors that focuses on common problems encountered on nights is extremely well received and improves junior doctor confidence in assessing these patients in the future.