The benefits of hosting a regular national VATS training course for thoracic theatre nurses-
a personal account

Anja Templin
Senior thoracic theatre sister
Southampton University Hospital NHS Trust
Provision of UK VATS training courses for non-medical theatre personnel before September 2013

- Decrease in number of suitable courses results in limited training opportunities at national level
- Funding issues
- Courses offer relevant teaching but with main focus on A&P and surgical techniques
- Not nurse led with limited involvement of wider theatre teams
The planning of our ‘VATS lobectomy patient pathway’ course

Strengths
- Expertise
- Motivated team
- New course concept (from pre-assessment to discharge)
- Nurse led
- Theatre management support

Weaknesses
- My first course
- First time presenters with limited presentation skills

Opportunities
- Ethicon sponsorship
- National demand for theatre personnel training

Threats
- No uptake from other UK hospitals
- Lack of funding
- Service demands
Time line to first course

Since 2010

September 2012

March 2013

June 2013

September 2013
Course benefits

- Education
- Team work
- Professional development
- Finance
Education

- Course offers comprehensive teaching package
- A total of 47 delegates from UK and Ireland (5th course scheduled for May 2015)
- Formal delegates' feedback analysis as quality indicator for high performance
- ‘Sister’ course in Liverpool (from 2015) to improve accessibility and in line with current agenda
Team work

- Multidisciplinary approach
- Choice of patient pathway concept to reaffirm best practice and joint focus on patient care
- Repeated opportunities to work together on same project
- Resource for networking
Professional development

- Progression from delegate to presenter to facilitator
- Leadership development opportunities for senior staff
- Time management and presentation skills training for all
- Continued emphasis on team work and support
- Use of reflective practice
Finance

- Course generates income of £250 per delegate
- Team manages ‘Thoracic theatre charity fund’
- Recent purchase of theatre equipment that directly benefits patient treatment and care
Some reflections...

“Although I still suffered from nerves before presenting it was not as bad as last time. I felt it went a lot better this time and I came away feeling really good and confident.”

“I felt that speaking on the course really helped to develop my presentation skills and allowed me the opportunity to improve my public speaking.”

“It has given me the opportunity to work alongside my colleagues and analyse how we do things in the thoracic theatre and how well we work as a team.”

“Preparing for the course has meant that I have reflected back on how much I have learnt post qualifying.”