



November 13th, 2014

Birth of new training for doctors and nurses

South Tyneside District Hospital has welcomed a valuable new addition to its maternity team. A lifesize simulator of a pregnant mother is providing staff with training opportunities to improve patient safety and ensure the best possible birthing outcomes.

The 'SimMom' was bought with a £25,000 donation from the League of Friends of South Tyneside Hospitals. Named Sarah by staff, she is used by obstetricians, anaesthetists and midwives to demonstrate various, realistic birthing scenarios, including high risk situations such as a difficult shoulders delivery or haemorrhaging.

Sarah's blood pressure, rate of breathing and heart rate, as well as that of her realistically-modelled 'baby', can be electronically-controlled to replicate different situations. Bendable limbs mean she can be placed in various labour and delivery positions.

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Dr Shamma Al-Inizi said: "We are very grateful indeed to the League of Friends for their extremely generous donation. This remarkable piece of equipment is incredibly like a real patient and provides us with the opportunity to give our staff, including medical students, experience and confidence in a risk-free environment, which could potentially save lives.

"Sarah allows us to rehearse both common birthing scenarios and emergency incidents, some of which we see only rarely in our hospital. This enables individuals and teams to refine their skills and to be prepared for various eventualities to ensure the best possible outcomes for mother and baby."

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Mr Hani Fawzi added: "Sarah presents a wonderful opportunity for different members of the gynaecology team to work together to learn technical skills, as well as the non-technical such as communication, leadership and delegation, in a safe, controlled environment in preparation for working together in the real world on the delivery suite."



Sue Goddard, treasurer of the League of Friends of South Tyneside Hospitals, said: "This is one of the largest of our recent donations. We could see the potential for training our local doctors and midwives and for practising problem birth situations so we were delighted to be able to purchase the equipment."

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Pictured above: Members of South Tyneside District Hospital's maternity team and of the League of Friends of South Tyneside Hospitals with the simulator mother and baby

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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