



## **Busy Bees: Take an Opportunity to Swarm and Optimize Your Efficiency and Teaching While on Shift**

No doubt that an outsider looking at the commotion of an emergency department (ED) might describe our work environment as a place where there are many "busy bees," but I never could have imagined using the word "swarming" to describe a model of efficiency in patient care. I think we can all agree that making sure everyone is on the same page and shares the same mental model with respect to their assessments and care plans are key to a well-coordinated patient care plan. We also know that keeping patients and their families informed has a significant impact on their ED experience. In an article in this month's issue of *Academic Emergency Medicine Education and Training* entitled [Defining "Swarming" as a New Model to Optimize Efficiency and Education in an Academic Emergency Department](#), the authors — Jessica L. Perniciaro MD, Anita R. Schmidt MPH, Phung K. Pham MS, MA, and Deborah R. Liu MD from Children's Hospital Los Angeles Emergency Medicine — describe a new model of care in the ED where the nurse, resident, and attending simultaneously perform an initial assessment and collaboratively discuss a treatment plan. Despite challenges with the implementation of consistent swarming in their ED, the research team reported high provider satisfaction as well as patient satisfaction. I imagine that many teaching hospitals employ this newly-coined model of swarming with patients that are critically ill and need acute resuscitation but do not use this model as consistently with patients that are not critical. I have had the opportunity to experiment with this model in our ED and have also anecdotally seen an increase in our team dynamic and patient experience. I would agree with the authors that attention to refining and standardizing this model may lead to efficiency and strengthen our clinical learning environment. As faculty, we have the opportunity to teach our medical students and residents how we view a situation and clearly delineate our thought processes in a real-life, just-in-time learning opportunity. I encourage each of you to not only read this article but actually give it a try!

Respectfully,

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