Incorporating Simulation & Standardized Patients into Occupational Therapy Curricula

MEGAN TAYLOR, OTD, OTR, MSOT, CLT
DONNA WALLS, OTD, OTR, MS, CHT

Objectives

- Describe simulation and standardized patients
- Discuss benefits and challenges of using standardized patients as perceived by both students and faculty
- List steps for implementing a standardized patient encounter
- Identify at least 2 alternatives to using standardized patients during simulation
- Describe at least 2 meaningful components of simulation and standardized patient encounters which support the newly approved 2018 ACOTE standards for Level I fieldwork experiences (effective July 31, 2020)

What is Simulation?

- Practicing skills found in real world experiences
- Creating a safe environment for learning and practicing “hands on skills”
- Bridging the gap between classroom knowledge and clinical practice

Types of Simulation

Role Play

Types of Simulation

Human Patient Simulation
Use of low-high fidelity mannequins

Standardized Patient
A person trained to portray a patient in realistic and repeatable ways

- Simulated Patient
- Simulated Participant
- Human Simulation
**Types of Simulation**

**Computerized Software Simulation**
Practice decision-making and skills using computer-based programs
- Virtual Reality Simulation
- Virtual Immersive-Reality Simulation
- Simulated Training Equipment

**Brainstorm**

How can simulation be used in OT curricula?

---

**Standardized Patients**

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF EXISTING EVIDENCE

- Barrows developed the concept of standardized patients (SPs) for improving clinical reasoning and clinical performance of medical students in the 1960s
- Trained to portray realistic characteristics
  - Physical
  - Emotional
  - Personality

**Benefits & Challenges**

- Experiential learning
- Controlled experience
- Safe learning environment
- Realistic
- Integration of knowledge & skills
- Collaboration between faculty & students
- Immediate feedback
- Nervousness
- Cost
- Time consuming
- Scheduling

**Purpose**

- Barrows developed the concept of standardized patients (SPs) for improving clinical reasoning and clinical performance of medical students in the 1960s
- Trained to portray realistic characteristics
  - Physical
  - Emotional
  - Personality

**Implementation**

CREATING THE STANDARDIZED PATIENT ENCOUNTER
Implementation

Preparation
- Establish learning objectives
- Become acquainted with facility
  - Physical space
  - Staff & resources
  - Scheduling
  - Cost

Implementation

Preparation
- Create case study
  - Descriptive case
  - Evaluation instruments
  - SP training documents
  - Student preparation resources

Implementation

Preparation
- Train SPs
  - Face-to-face &/or online
  - Explain purpose of encounter & level of student
  - Provide detailed case description & include training handouts
  - Discuss & practice s/sx for repeatability
  - Explain role in student feedback & include any forms

Day of Encounter
- Setup
  - Follow-up with SPs
  - Setup environmental & equipment
  - Distribute evaluation instruments
- Debrief

What We Have Learned …

Benefits, Challenges, & Essentials
- Benefits & challenges for OTS are consistent with the literature
- Debriefs are critical to learning experience
- Monetary cost
- Simulation faculty & SPs may not be familiar with rehabilitation
- Time, expertise, & collaboration required to develop case studies & evaluation methods
- Faculty training important for cohesiveness
- Time needed to properly train SPs
- Consider stage of curriculum where SP encounter is used
Stage of Curriculum

Alternatives to Standardized Patients

- Peers
  - Same cohort
  - Other cohorts
  - Other programs
- Faculty
- Area clinicians, community members
- Drama department

ACOTE C.1.9 Level I Fieldwork

Goal of Level I FW is to introduce students to FW, apply knowledge to practice, and develop understanding of the needs of clients

ACOTE C.1.9 Level I Fieldwork

ACOTE C.1.9 Level I Fieldwork

Instructional methods
- Simulated environments
- Standardized patients
- Faculty practice
- Faculty-led site visits
- Supervision by FWE in practice environment
## References


### Simulation Resources

- Association of Standardized Patient Educators
  - [https://www.aspeducators.org/](https://www.aspeducators.org/)
- Society for Simulation in Healthcare
  - [http://www.ssih.org/](http://www.ssih.org/)

---

### Megan Taylor, OTD, OTR
megan.r.taylor@ttuhsc.edu

### Donna Walls, OTD, OTR
donna.walls@acu.edu