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How to Meet the ACOG Standards: Best Practices in Hybrid Simulation

To ensure that your learners in labor and delivery are reaping the full benefit of hybrid simulation, use these tips.

Know exactly what you want your learners to gain from the hybrid simulation experience and scale the scenario down to address only that. Simple goals are best.

Ensure learners have mastered any related coursework prior to beginning the simulation. They should not be surprised by any of the clinical information they encounter.

Provide a detailed briefing to patient actors to standardize the questions they will ask as well as the mood and level of pain they will portray.

Have multiple clinicians review the simulation setting for accuracy and functionality. Learners should not have to struggle to suspend their disbelief.

Give learners an overview of the capabilities of the task trainer or partial trainer so that they understand which procedures they can perform. And, reinforce the appropriate way to discuss procedural consent, benefits, and risks with a patient.

Rehearse subtle cues with the actors that will indicate whether they should react negatively, amplify their pain symptoms, or create additional challenges for the learners.

Facilitate group debriefs following the simulations and be sure that each learner has a chance to share their thoughts. Learners benefit from each other's experience.

Provide learners with time to process the experience. This may be their first encounter with a human patient, and they may find it unsettling at first.

Repeat the simulation more than once with the same learners. The ability to correct their mistakes can help improve retention.

Always remember to measure your success in terms of student confidence, too! Simulation is intended to help develop self-assured healthcare providers.

Laerdal has developed a suite of maternal and newborn solutions that can amplify the realism of your hybrid simulations.

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