



California Health Sciences University
COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (COM)
SIMULATION PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Simulation Center and Program policy is to ensure a safe learning environment for all learners, faculty, and staff (internal and external).

SCOPE

This policy affects all Simulation Center staff, CHSU faculty, staff, and participants (external and internal) who work in and with the CHSU Simulation Center.

POLICY STATEMENT

The CHSU Simulation Center and Program is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for CHSU faculty, staff, residents, students, and external customers and adheres to the [Healthcare Simulation Standards Best Practice™ Facilitation](#).

A. Safety

The Simulation Program abides by institutional policies regarding safety:

- [CHSU Policy and Procedure for Disease Prevention Caused by Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards](#)
- [CHSU Safety, Security and Emergency Response Policy](#)
- [CHSU Student Injury on Campus Policy](#)
- [CHSU Unlawful Discrimination Harassment Retaliation and Sexual Violence](#)
- [CHSU Workplace Violence](#)
- [CHSU Student Mental Health Policy](#)

CHSU operates under safety policies established by the Vice President of Operations who is charged with providing the necessary support in the implementation of required federal, state, and local safety programs and training.



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No “real” drugs or medications are used for simulation-based activities. No real drugs or medications are to be brought into the Simulation Center by center staff, CHSU faculty, internal or external clients or students. Simulated medications are all labeled “not for human use, simulation only.”

No invasive procedures are performed on an individual during simulated patient experiences and/or lab practice training experiences. Preauthorization for special situations such as blood draw practice is necessary from the COM Dean.

B. Psychological Safety

A guiding principle for the CHSU Simulation Program is the establishment of psychological safety in the simulation learning environment. As stated in “Defining Excellence in Simulation Programs” (Palaganas, Maxworthy, Epps, & Mancini, 2015):

“For interprofessional students to fully engage in a team-based simulation and allow themselves to identify and explore errors, the educator must take the time to establish an environment of support, curiosity, and respect. An individual’s contribution to the learning affects other team member’s learning, as well as the collective learning of the group. Occasionally, a scenario may trigger memories of a prior bad experience that influences the discussion and learning of the entire group. Facilitators must be able to address such a breach in psychological safety, especially if the breach is regarding working in teams, should it arise.”

Psychological safety is particularly critical with participants who work together on a day-to-day basis. If mistakes are made during the scenario, fear, embarrassment, and judgments may carry over to the day-to-day setting, creating discomfort and mistrust among the student team(s), which may contribute to ineffective patient care when working with the care team.



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Simulation Center staff and CHSU faculty/facilitators are required to be sensitive to students who may have recently experienced emotional events and is expressing distress during a simulation-based activity. CHSU has an on-campus psychologist who can be called to meet with the student privately.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Psychological Safety** – A feeling (explicit or implicit) within a simulation-based activity that participants are comfortable participating, speaking up, sharing thoughts, and asking for help as heeded without concern for retribution or embarrassment.
- B. Safe Learning Environment** – A learning environment where it is clarified that learners feel physically and psychologically safe to make decisions, take actions, and interact in the simulation.

REFERENCES

- Lopreiato JO (Ed.). (2016). Healthcare simulation dictionary (29). Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.
- Lopreiato JO (Ed.). (2016). Healthcare simulation dictionary (31). Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

RELATED INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

A. Simulation Program Safeguards

Medical equipment within the Simulation Center is checked annually for any safety concerns and labeled for simulation only and is not to be used for diagnostic purposes. The defibrillator housed on the adult crash cart is clearly labeled for simulation use only, not for human use.

1. Medications Safety

- i. All crash carts are inspected and restocked by Simulation Center staff
- ii. All crash carts are labeled: "SIMULATION".
- iii. All crash carts are locked between inspection and use.



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- iv. All simulated medications are labeled: “For Simulation Only” “Not for Human Use.”
- v. If a real medication or drug is found in the Simulation Center, Center staff will notify the Simulation Center Director and dispose of at a local receptacle medication drop box.

2. Latex Precautions

- i. Personnel and participants are notified of any equipment or mannequins that contain latex during the prebriefing.

B. Safety Orientation

1. Simulation Center staff will receive additional safety training to the Simulation Center environment during the first two weeks of hire. Annual refresher training will be done or as needed for new safety standards.
2. Students, as well as internal and external clients (faculty, staff, and community) using the Simulation Center will receive safety training prior to participating in their first simulation-based experience.
3. Simulation Center employees will be required to have American Heart Association Basic Life Support certification within the first six months of hire.

C. Accident Reporting

1. Simulation Center Staff, CHSU Faculty, and Staff are required to immediately report all on-the-job incidents, injuries, and illnesses to the Simulation Center Director and the individual’s supervisor.
2. In case of a medical crisis, dial 911 for immediate response by medical personnel.
3. All participants are to adhere to standardized precautions during all simulation-based experiences:
 - i. Correct handling and disposal of sharps
 - ii. Hand washing before and after contact with patients and mannequins
[When and How to Wash Your Hands | Handwashing | CDC](#)
 - iii. Donning gloves prior to patient or mannequin contact



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iv. Donning PPE as required by the scenario

v. Use cough etiquette and/or droplet precautions for respiratory symptoms

[Coughing and Sneezing | CDC](#)

RESPONSIBILITIES

Simulation Center Director and staff, CHSU faculty and Staff, CHSU students, and internal and external clients are responsible to uphold and follow this policy

HISTORY (R*)

Approval Date:

7/5/2023

09/05/2019

Revision Date(s):

4/3/23

Reviewed Date(s):

7/5/2023

R: COM Dean

A: Simulation Center Director, Associate Dean for Osteopathic Clinical Education and Simulation

C: COM Faculty and Staff, CHSU Legal Counsel, CHSU Policy Development Committee, Vice President of Operations

I: CHSU Community