

Drama in the Classroom: Work and Experience with Standardized Patients and Classroom Simulation of Difficult Clinical Scenarios

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Abstract : Two different simulations using standardized patients were developed to reinforce content and foster undergraduate nursing students' practice and development of interpersonal skills in difficult clinical situations in the classroom. The live actor simulations focused on fostering interpersonal skills, traditionally considered by students to be simple and easy. However, seemingly straightforward interactions can be very stressful, particularly in women's complex social/emotional situations. Supporting patients in these contexts is fraught with complexity and high emotion, requiring skillful support, assessment and intervention by a registered nurse. In this presentation, the personal and professional perspectives of the development, incorporation, and execution of the live actor simulations will be discussed, as well as the inclusion of student perceptions, and the learning gained by the involved faculty.

Keywords : adult learning, interpersonal skill development, simulation learning, teaching and learning

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