Design of a consensus based scenario template for use in full-scale simulation-based education in healthcare

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Introduction and Aim:

Tools and templates exist to facilitate the creation of clinical scenarios, but some elements are often missing which can hinder the learning process. Scenario design is a key simulation-based education (SBE) element to ensure a meaningful and contextualised learning experience for participants. Templates serve as a guide for scenario planning, setup, and facilitation. Scenario writers influence the elements that get reported within templates, allowing more or less easily reproducibility or standardisation. Variations in setting up a scenario will emerge as soon as assumptions are allowed to take place, and this is the aspect we aim to address by proposing a new scenario design template.

Methods:

To offer an objective scenario guide, we used the "Nominal Group Technique" involving a panel 7 international instructors in clinical simulation in healthcare with expertise in SBE and healthcare, and a mixture of clinical, technical, and academic backgrounds. The panel members individually reviewed the literature to draw the essential elements in writing a good scenario and shared their findings to determine the key factors.

Results

The panel developed new scenario design guidelines as a template called the "SIM" (SImulation Manuscript). It includes 11 elements which are:

Scenario identification

Learning objectives

Setting

Summary

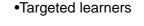
Level of realism

Actors' additional information

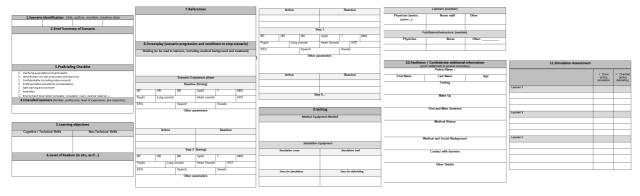
Prebriefing checklist

•References

Simulation assessment



Screenplay



Discussion

In addition to being a permanent record of preparing and running a learning activity, scenario documentation should be considered as a crucial communication tool between the key players of most SBE activities such as the clinical educator, simulator operator, simulation technician, and simulated or standardized patients, as it promotes the success of any simulation-based learning activity. Although simulation design standards have been published by the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL), and various scenario templates are accessibles online, they are still open to misinterpretation and may not cover some aspects such as data about patient physiological changes, pictures of moulage requirements, and precise room and equipment configuration. Many elements provide important cues to scenario participants and exaggeration or lack of could misguide them. SIM remains to be tested and evaluated by other SBE stakeholders so the authors can receive constructive feedback. An electronic copy of the template can be obtained by emailing one of the co-authors (dersahakian@hotmail.fr; q.alinier@herts.ac.uk; Denis.oriot@univpoitiers.fr; alan.platt@northumbria.ac.uk; Georges.Savoldelli@hcuge.ch; mjaffrelot@yahoo.fr; francois.lecomte@cch.aphp.fr).