**Tips *for delivering simulation (scenario-based) on virtual platforms***

Brought to you by ***McMaster University Centre for Simulation-Based Learning***

* Most simulation cases, both manikin-based and standardized patient (SP)-based, can be delivered virtually but may require Modification. Keep your character demographics broad for easier SP recruitment when it comes to SP-based virtual simulation.
* ALWAYS conduct a DRY RUN before delivering any simulation activity virtually. Dry run with your own team first to sort out all technical glitches and test out process. Then Dry Run with the instructor(s) to see if you need to adjust scenario flow for virtual platform.
* Divide Cognitive Load up! Have a Designated HOST (Sim Coordinator) managing your virtual session, so instructor, participants, sim tech, confederate, SP can focus on their tasks. Designate an Alternative Host should technical difficulties arise with the original host.
* Maintain a Safe Virtual Simulation Environment. The usual Learner Conduct (e.g. Confidentiality etc.) in simulation environment still applies in virtual environment. Have a Learner Contract modified for virtual platforms and communicate to learners before they engage in a virtual simulation activity.
* We generally Discourage Recording of online virtual simulation session. But when recording is necessary for achieving the learning objectives of a virtual session, have all participants (including SP and confederate) agree to a video recording consent form beforehand.
* Mitigate Risks associated with Online Video Conferencing Platforms. Using registration process, enabling a wait room, only allowing the host to share screens are all useful measures.
* It takes LONGER to conduct a simulation on virtual platform. Only one person can talk at a time and actions happen in sequence NOT simultaneously as in-person simulation. Make sure you Schedule appropriate length of time, so learners don’t feel rushed during a virtual simulation.
* Set aside some Virtual Orientation time before your simulation begins. Introduce the virtual environment to your learners. If SPs are involved, spend some time with them as well going through the expectations and logistics.
* If you have learners Observing simulation, ask them Turn their Video Off during the simulation to Keep the Focus on the Active Participants.
* DEBRIEF in a Breakout Room to avoid the distraction of setup and takedown in the sim setting. Encourage everyone to Turn On their cameras to facilitate group discussion.