

Creating a Successful Simulation Center to Train Students, Nurses, and Physicians



THE PROBLEM

The F. Marie Hall SimLife Center at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) in Lubbock, Texas allows students in the nursing, medicine, and allied health professions to acquire and practice a full range of skills on mannequins, from drawing blood and inserting urinary catheters to delivering babies.

Sharon Decker, PhD, RN, Center Director and Covenant Health System Endowed Chair in Simulation and Nursing Education, says, "Because the center is so accessible, faculty and professionals community-wide also utilize the facility. Scheduling all these different programs became a nightmare."

THE SOLUTION

Mercedes Day, RN, MSN, Coordinator, "The biggest challenge of all in regards to the Center is trying to squeeze everyone in. We have several groups that we accommodate on a regular basis—nursing students, medical students, community healthcare workers, and tour groups." The scheduling is made easier with EMS' SIMULATIONiQ™ Enterprise calendar, which not only allows Day to schedule session participants, rooms, and equipment, but also provides a single view of both simulation sessions and clinical skills encounters by day, week, or month.

Daniel Backlund, PhD, IT Administrator, confirms the scheduling challenge. "One way we've resolved part of the problem is by offering faculty a later, more convenient time after simulation to debrief their students by using the SIMULATIONiQ A-V system to watch the recorded simulations."

THE RESULTS

Additionally, EMS' SIMULATIONiQ Enterprise enables TTUHSC to track center utilization and trend reports data for internal cost accounting and ensures appropriate billing of other departments and external customers who use the center.

Besides the dedicated simulation rooms equipped with SIMULATIONiQ Enterprise, the nursing program utilizes EMS' SIMULATIONiQ Portable, a wireless simulation management solution on wheels. SIMULATIONiQ Portable is ideal for recording sessions outside the classroom: nursing faculty transport a mannequin to a lecture hall and record sessions for later debriefing. The SimLife Center has also integrated EMS' EHR into the school of nursing curriculum, helping to prepare students to electronically document in a real setting.

"The biggest consideration when choosing a vendor is the level of support. Our center utilizes copious amounts of AV hardware as well as software. A support team that is able to respond quickly is crucial when problems occur. The EMS TotalCAREiQ Team is great because they always answer the phone and will fix any problem remotely."
- Daniel Backlund, PhD, IT Administrator, SimLife Center

EMS' mission is to advance the quality and efficiency of clinical care through smarter simulation, leading to better outcomes. EMS helps to build mastery around: clinical skills, collaboration, communication, and competency for improved patient safety and quality of care.

Smarter Simulation. Better Outcomes™

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