The Role of a Simulation Specialist at WISER

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Overview of WISER

Department of Anesthesiology

UPMC
UPMC
- 22 Hospitals
- 70,000 Employees
- SDS and Out Patient Clinics

University of Pittsburgh
- Medical School
- School of Nursing
- School of Pharmacy
- Undergrad – Medical Biology
- Dental School
What Does This Mean?

WISER site plus satellites =
22 Sim Rooms
4 Large Classrooms
2 Debriefing Rooms
5 Procedures Labs
1 Nursing Skills Lab

In-situ simulation at most hospitals in system
Demographics of Participants

**Medicine**

- **Medical Students (MS 2-4)**
  - Residents
  - Anesthesiology
  - Emergency Medicine
  - ENT
  - Internal Medicine
  - OB/GYN (course work in development)
  - Pediatrics
  - Surgery
  - Dental

- **Fellows**
  - Critical Care
  - Pediatric Intensivists

- **Faculty Members and Community Physicians**
  - Anesthesiology
  - Critical Care Medicine
  - Emergency Medicine

**Nursing**

- **Undergraduate Nursing Students**
  - Practicing Nurses
  - Med / Surg
  - ICU
  - OR

- **Nurse Anesthetists**
- **Student Nurse Anesthetists**

- **Pharmacy Students**
- **Pharmacists**
- **Occupational Therapy**
- **Paramedics, EMTs**
- **Respiratory Therapists**
- **Other Simulation Centers / Educators**
- **Many Others**
WISER 2011 Data

• Course Catalog of 139 Learning Systems (Courses)
• 90 Course Directors
• 300 Instructors
• 1,357 Classes
• 44,000 hours of simulation
WISER Support Model

1- Simulation Operations Manager
3- Full Time Simulation Specialists

1 Full Time IT Technician
Current Role of the WISER Sim Specialist

1. Meet with Course Directors/Facilitators
2. Program Scenarios
3. Set-up and Tear Down for Classes
4. Support Courses at WISER Main and 5 Off-Site Locations
5. Train Instructors How to use Simulators and WISER Equipment
6. Teach Courses
7. Maintenance, Repair, Inventory Control
Hiring a Simulation Specialist

Interpersonal Abilities:
• Communication Skills
• Flexible and Adaptable
• Dedicated
• Willingness to Learn
• Detail Oriented
• Multi-Tasking Ability

Technical Abilities:
• Simulation/Educational Experience Preferred
• Prefer Medical Background
• Medical Terminology
• A/V Knowledge
• IT Knowledge
Training a Simulation Specialist

- General Orientation
- Orientation to “Simulation” Review articles, view sim sessions
- Simulation Room Set-up (equipment, supplies)
- Simulation Observation with Mentor
- Simulator Set-up and Operation
- Set-up and Operation of A/V System
- Simulator Operations with Mentor
- Programming (one step at a time)
- IT Skills
- Continue to Refine Knowledge and Experience
- Training can take 6 to 12 Months - Independence
Core Competencies

- Course Operations (instructor support, center support)
- Programming scenarios
- Trouble Shooting Simulator & A/V System
- Repair and Maintenance of Simulator
- Repair and Maintenance of A/V System
- Equipment & Inventory Management
- IT Skill Development
Goals for Success

• Need to be included in course creation process
  • To operationalize courses (Equipment List, scenario flow, rooms needed, instructor training)
  • For programming of scenarios
• Assign tasks based on areas of strength
• Supply tools for responsibilities (programming forms)
• Allow for “open door” communications
• Routine meetings for feedback
• Input on decision making processes
• Establish clear responsibilities
• Customer Feedback/Surveys (don’t be afraid to ask for it)
How Can You Ensure Your Specialists Are Better Trained?

1. Join the society
2. Get involved with vendors (come to your center to train you on your equipment)
3. Attend local/regional workshops (Laerdal SUN, CAE-METI HPSN, etc.)
4. Visit other centers that do what you do. (make sure they actually do work..)
5. Get Certified (BLS, ACLS). WISER Simulation Specialists are either BLS and / or ACLS instructors as well.
6. Get Involved in courses. Do more than support...