

Simulation Debriefing Guide

The following are key points to assist educators' facilitation of debriefing. The purpose is to encourage the learners' self-reflection and learning. Assure the simulation participants that they are in a safe learning environment. It may also be a good idea to restate or write your objectives out for learners to refer to.

Reactions

- Begin with, "How did it go?" This will allow a release of emotions.
- "Can you tell me what happened during your simulation and how you met your objectives?"
- "How did you feel about (specific simulation event)?"

Understanding (key video playback moments at this time, if desired)

- "What were you thinking when (specific simulation event) occurred?"
- "What led you to make the decision to (specific student(s) action)?"
- "I saw you (specific student(s) action). Can you tell me about that?"
- "What did you learn about (specific topic, skill, method, diagnosis, etc.)?"

Summary

- "What went well in the simulation?"
- "What would you do differently?"
- "What key points did you learn?"
- "What are your closing thoughts?"

TIPS

- The group should sit in a circle whenever possible. The facilitator should not be at the head of a table.
- You should allow at least as much time for debriefing as allowed for the simulation.
- Limit praise or personal opinions of the learners' performance. Let the learners assess themselves, positive or negative.
- Facilitate the participant discussion, provide formative feedback regarding learners' ability to meet objectives, but do not lecture.
- Allowing silence while students are thinking is acceptable.
- Highlight what went well in the simulation or debriefing.

Debriefing Resources

Kardong-Edgren, S. (2016). Sim 104: Briefing and debriefing – The key to learning in simulation. In University of Washington Center for Health Sciences Interprofessional Education, Research and Practice. Retrieved from <http://collaborate.uw.edu/faculty-development/teaching-with-simulation/basic/sim-104/sim-104-briefing-and-debriefing%E2%80%94the-key-t>

INACSL Standards Committee (2016). INACSL standards of best practice: SimulationSM Debriefing. *Clinical Simulation in Nursing* 12(S), S21-S25. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j/ecns.2016.09.008>.