

## Using Simulation to Advance the Life-Saving Skills of VHA Staff



The Employee Education System (EES) Simulation Division provides simulation-based, clinical education and training using a train-the-trainer model, and serves as the hub that supports a National Simulation Network of over 150 VA Medical Centers that conduct simulation-based clinical training locally delivered to their staff.

Based at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center in Orlando, Florida, this division combines the use of simulation-based training, curriculum development, teamwork and debriefing of scenarios using audio/visual to reinforce learning, along with ACLS and BLS training to increase the clinical skills of staff members throughout VHA.

## Innovative Simulation Training to Improve Patient Outcomes

The EES Simulation Division has dedicated experts and state-of-the-art resources to support the learning needs of VHA staff:

### SimLEARN

SimLEARN is the overarching program within the Simulation Division. SimLEARN is a national program for advancing clinical simulation training, education and research across VHA. The program is a collaborative effort of EES, Office of Patient Care Services, and Office of Nursing Services program offices. SimLEARN serves as a valuable resource to VHA health care providers and educators on the operational strategies, simulation technologies, and training methods needed to address local training priorities. The SimLEARN program addresses national clinical priorities, including suicide prevention, women Veterans' health and clinical team training. The program also provides model operational policies, procedures, standards and guidelines for VHA simulation activities.

### REdI

REdI is VHA's national program to standardize, document, track and monitor the provision of Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Life Support training throughout VHA. REdI is a department within SimLEARN and provides critical train-the-trainer clinical training support using American Heart Association guidelines to provide training to large numbers of VHA medical center clinical and non-clinical employees.

### Curriculum Development

Project managers, curriculum developers and simulation technicians support SimLEARN's national medical director and national director of nursing programs to create accredited, leading edge, simulation-based clinical training solutions. VHA clinical training requirements are validated by the SimLEARN steering committee where Simulation Division staff collaborate with clinical subject matter experts to design, develop, test, implement and evaluate the training to ensure it meets the needs of VHA providers. The resulting curriculum can be used in face-to-face training, or is hosted on VA's Talent Management System for independent study.

### VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center

The VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center serves as the operational hub for coordination of all national VHA simulation-based clinical training activities. A new 51,000-square-foot facility officially opened Sept. 16, 2016 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. It has 10 classrooms and is able to accommodate up to 160 students at a time. The facility provides an immersive training environment by replicating actual patient treatment areas, including an outpatient clinic setting and an inpatient hospital setting with intensive care units, an operating room and more. Video recordings of training scenarios takes place for classroom review, and multipurpose classrooms have reconfigurable walls to provide a number of room

To learn more about these topics, visit  
[www.simlearn.va.gov](http://www.simlearn.va.gov).

A comprehensive list of simulation  
courses available through  
SimLEARN are available [here](#).

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