



Simulation Exchange Volume 8, Issue 2

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SIMULATION EXCHANGE



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Featured Training

Several courses have class openings in June, including the [Code Team Simulation Instructor Training](#) and [Introduction to Clinical Simulation Instructor](#) training courses. Click the links above to register. More courses are available on the [SimLEARN course catalog](#).

For more information, visit www.simlearn.va.gov or [send us an e-mail](#).



Couple makes Alaska's Honor Flight Guardians 'REdI' to help Veterans

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Since 2005, the non-profit organization Honor Flight Network has transported more than 160,000 Veterans of World War II and other conflicts to Washington D.C. to spend one day visiting the various monuments built in their honor, at no cost to the participant. Each Veteran is required to bring an escort to assist them on their journey. These Honor Flight Guardians are made up of family, friends and volunteers, and are an essential component of the success of the mission.



The Last Frontier Honor Flight hub in Big Lake, Alaska is making use of VHA's Simulation Learning, Education and Research Network's (SimLEARN's) Resuscitation Education Initiative (REdI), as well as volunteers from the Alaska Veterans Affairs Healthcare System and Regional Office (AVAHSRO) to train their guardians in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). REdI, which is based at SimLEARN in Orlando, Florida, is a national program to standardize, document, track and monitor the provision of Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) training throughout VHA.

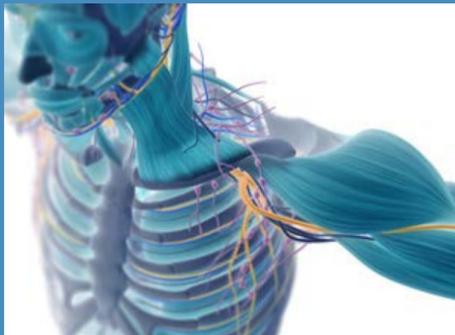
"The REdI program allows us and supports us to provide this training," said Vicki Cushing-Breeden, a nurse practitioner at the AVAHSRO. She, along with her husband Rex Breeden, a VA police officer, are BLS instructors and have been training Honor Flight Guardians for three years ever since Cushing-Breeden first heard about the Honor Flight from another staff member. They contacted the organization to discuss the friends and family CPR program. It met the Honor Flight's needs to train the Guardians.

For the rest of the story, please [click here](#).

Musculoskeletal courses for clinicians available in June, August

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – There are two upcoming classes at the VHA Simulation Learning, Education and Research Network (SimLEARN) National Simulation Center for the Musculoskeletal (MSK) Clinician Training Program. These face-to-face classes June 27-28 and Aug. 15-16 are designed to enhance a primary care provider's knowledge, skills and confidence to manage common musculoskeletal problems. In addition, this training emphasizes appropriate resource utilization and access to specialty care.



MSK diseases are common, and many patients seek care for these problems in primary care and urgent care clinics. In the past decade, MSK conditions were identified as the most frequent diagnoses in primary care clinic encounters in the U.S. Despite this prevalence, providers are often not well prepared to effectively address common MSK problems within their clinical setting.

For more about this course or to enroll, [click here](#). If you have questions about this training, please contact Brian Peplinski, SimLEARN National Simulation Center project manager, at (407) 631-9551 or brian.peplinski@va.gov.

Travel funding for attendees must be locally provided by their respective VA Medical Center or Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN). Travel policy will be strictly enforced in an effort to keep costs within approved conference limits.

Roseburg staff uses simulation to reinforce patient care



By Amanda Morrow, BSN, RN
and Dixie Fowler RN, CMSRN, CNOR, CPAN
Staff Education Consultants and Simulation Instructors
Roseburg VA Medical Center

ROSEBURG, Ore. – Mannequin and role-play simulation were recently used to reinforce infection control practices for 68 staff in the Roseburg VA Medical Center (VAMC) Community Living Center (CLC). Participants involved included nursing, social services and rehabilitation staff.

The scene was set with a product called GlitterBug® on the blanket covering the mannequin. GlitterBug® is a hand lotion or powder with an ultraviolet, fluorescent glow. The product is applied to the scene, and then the staff member can be screened for residual glow particles after removing their personal protective equipment and washing their hands.

For the rest of the story, [click here](#).

In the photo, staff inspect hands and personal protective equipment for signs of "glitter bug," which would signify contamination and need for better washing. (VA photo by Amanda Morrow)

National nursing service orientation course developed

By Debra A. Mosley, MSN, RN and
Susan Martenson, MS, BSN, RN-BC, CEN, CFRN, NRP, LHRM
VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center staff

ORLANDO, Fla. – Two years ago, a team of subject matter experts from a variety of VHA facilities met to initiate the development of a national nursing service orientation course based on identified gaps and the need to standardize curriculum using simulation. This project recently went through a pilot stage evaluation at the Dayton VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Ohio and the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center here.



The training is designed to provide newly hired nursing staff like registered nurses, (RNs), licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/LVNs) and nursing assistants (NAs), opportunities to review nursing practice, utilize-facility specific equipment, as well as participate in the simulation-based scenarios in a safe learning environment. Representatives of all three nursing categories participated in the pilot evaluation. Development of the learning topics and initial scenarios was a multi-site process using nursing education teams from across VHA.

For the rest of the story, please [click here](#).

VISN 23 achieves first in simulation certification



By David J. Adriansen, Ed.D., NREMT
VISN 23 Simulation Champion
Minneapolis VA Health Care System

MINNEAPOLIS – The Veteran Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23 Simulation Program has taken significant steps to advance its program. These efforts resulted in the recent upgrading of the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System from the intermediate tier to advanced tier facility simulation center certification. Combined with the recent basic tier certification of the VA Central Iowa and VA Black Hills Health Care Systems, VISN 23 is now the first VHA network to have all their facility simulation centers certified by SimLEARN. VISN 23 hosts two of the seven advanced tier and six of the 33 basic tier simulation programs.

For the rest of the story, please [click here](#).

SimLEARN national medical director featured on National

Public Radio

ORLANDO, Fla. – SimLEARN National Medical Director Dr. Haru Okuda, was recently interviewed during a media tour of the new VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center. His interview is featured in a broadcast from WAMC, Northeast Public Radio regarding the VHA simulation program. To listen, [click here](#).



Newly certified simulation centers

ORLANDO, Fla. – SimLEARN staff recently awarded new simulation certifications to qualified facilities. Facility certifications last for two years and are renewable. They are a distinctive accomplishment.

There are three tiers of certification: basic, intermediate and advanced. Congratulation to the facilities listed below on their certifications:

Atlanta VA Medical Center (VAMC) - Atlanta, Georgia - **Basic**

Martinsburg VAMC - Martinsburg, West Virginia - **Intermediate**

A facility can request certification after one year of existence while meeting the basic level criteria. A non-binding email of intent and certification application is required. Please contact the team by sending an email to EESFacilitySimulationCertification@va.gov. For a full list of certified simulation centers, click [here](#).

VA



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Simulation Exchange is a product of the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center. The program's operations and management is conducted by the VHA Employee Education System in close collaboration with the Office of Patient Care Services and the Office of Nursing Services. Some links go directly to sites that can only be accessed by people who have access to the VA network. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please share this message with others. To subscribe click [here](#). For more information, visit www.simlearn.va.gov.

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