



Simulation Exchange Volume 11, Issue 2

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SIMULATION EXCHANGE

SimLEARN
Excellence in Veterans' Healthcare

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Your Source for VHA Simulation News

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Training Catalog

The VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center has a variety of courses available throughout the year. Please check often for any upcoming courses on the [SimLEARN course catalog](#).

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



SimLEARN Now Producing Training in Fight Against COVID-19



By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – The Simulation Learning, Education and Research Network (SimLEARN) began rolling out training to help VA medical staff care for our Veteran patients during this COVID-19 pandemic. This initial course, called [COVID-19 Patient Airway Management Outside of Operating Room](#) is designed for current airway managers that could come in direct contact with Veterans contaminated with the virus or other Veterans in close proximity.

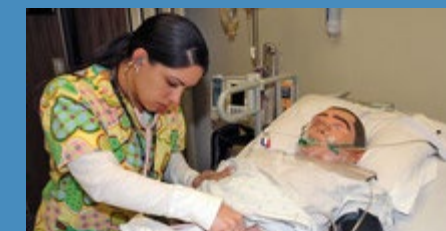
COVID-19 is a “new coronavirus that has not been previously identified,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Symptoms include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing. This is of particular concern, and why this course was developed.

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

In this photo, an image of the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center in Orlando, Florida. (VA courtesy photo)

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SimLEARN Training Courses at National Simulation Center Cancelled for Third Quarter 2020



By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – Courses offered at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center in Orlando, Florida have been cancelled through June due to ongoing efforts to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Courses are still scheduled for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2020. However, check back often on the [course catalog](#) for updates to the class schedule, check availability, or to enroll in courses.

The following courses are scheduled to take place through September 2020:

- Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter Course (PICC) - July 7 and July 9
- SimLEARN Faculty Instructor Course (SFIC) – July 10
- Introduction to Clinical Simulation (ICS) - July 21 and Sept. 15
- Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) - July 28 and Aug. 11
- Musculoskeletal - Clinician (MSK-C) – July 28 and Aug. 11
- Simulations for Clinical Excellence in Nursing Services (SCENS) – Aug. 3 and Aug. 31
- Point of Care Ultra Sound (POCUS) – Aug. 25
- Fundamentals of Critical Care Support (FCCS) – Aug. 25
- Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology (MOCA) – Sept. 4

If you have questions, please contact EES SimLEARN NSC Support EESSimLEARNNSCSupport@va.gov.

For more information about the SimLEARN program, please visit the [SimLEARN website](#).

The VHA public internet site for COVID-19 training is www.va.gov/COVIDtraining

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SimLEARN Releases COVID-19 Course for Non-ICU Clinicians

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

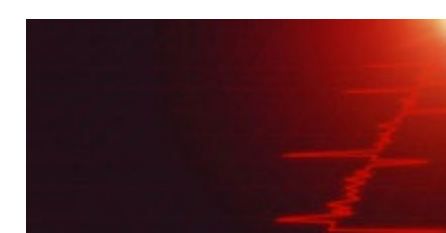
ORLANDO, Fla. – The Simulation Learning, Education and Research Network (SimLEARN) released another training course addressing care for our Veteran patients during this COVID-19 pandemic. Provided in collaboration with the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), the course is called [COVID-19 Critical Care for the Non-ICU Clinician](#).

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, the number of critically ill patients is expected to surge in hospitals across the United States. This may result in non-ICU clinicians being needed to care for critically ill patients. SCCM's Critical Care for the Non-ICU Clinician provides online education to health care professionals who may benefit from critical care training.

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

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Due to COVID-19, Temporary Waiver Issued Regarding Non-AHA Resuscitation Certifications for Newly Hired Direct Care Staff



By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – During normal operations, VHA only recognizes certification for Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) by the American Heart Association (AHA). However, due to the declared national emergency and requirement to onboard direct care staff in an expedited manner, an April 1 memorandum issued by the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management Renee Oshinski grants a temporary waiver, not to exceed 120 days, to accept BLS or ACLS certification from alternative vendors.

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

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Virtual Learning, Educational Games Help to Educate Nurses at Madison VA

By Jonathan Karlen, BSN, RN
Simulation Coordinator
and Amanda Westlake, BSN, RN
Nursing Education
Coordinator/Instructor
William S. Middleton Memorial
Veterans Hospital

MADISON, Wisc. – The William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin is currently utilizing two game-based learning applications from the VHA Employee Education System in its nurse residency and charge nurse programs.

The game-based system called MedSurge assists nurses in developing awareness and appreciation of a deteriorating patient's condition while acquiring the necessary diagnostic knowledge and skills to identify the patient's worsening condition in a timely manner to prevent a medical emergency code. Charge Nurse is an application designed to provide professional medical and health care providers needed iterative leadership, management, administrative, educational and clinical skills training intended to improve the novice and expert charge nurses' efficiency and effectiveness

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

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Rural Health Care Workers Being Reached with Simulation Training



By Sherri Boisvert PhD, MSN, RN
Simulation Outreach Network (SON)
VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center

ORLANDO, Fla. – One of the top priorities discussed by VA Secretary Robert Wilkie during his confirmation hearing was the accessibility and quality of care provided to rural Veterans. Rural Veterans may be 600 miles from the nearest Veterans Affairs medical center, impeding their access and quality of care.

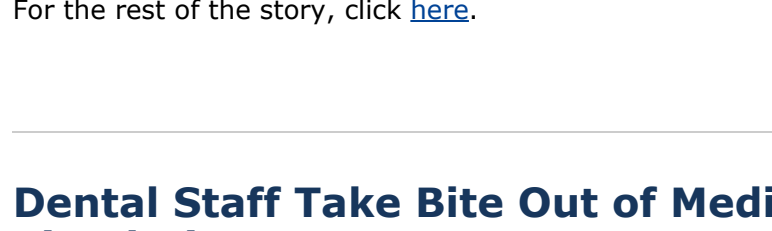
Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) were established to accommodate this access. However there still exists the problem of qualified, trained health care workers to provide care in these remote areas.

Understanding the challenge of educating clinicians serving rural Veterans, the Office of Rural Health and SimLEARN collaborated in a workforce development project to address these challenges. The project's overarching goal was to expand the development of simulation-based health care training programs in VA rural-based facilities.

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

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Dental Staff Take Bite Out of Medical Emergency Simulation



By Mary Sturgeon, DMD, RDH
Interprofessional Advanced Clinical
Simulation Fellow,
Shelley Miyasaki, DDS, Ph.D
Assistant Chief of Dentistry, Oral
Maxillofacial Surgeon
and Richard Fidler, CRNA, NP, Ph.D
Director of Simulation and the
Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in
Clinical Simulation
San Francisco VA Medical Center

SAN FRANCISCO – Thirteen years ago, San Francisco VA Health Care System (SFVA) Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, Shelley Miyasaki, DDS, Ph.D, met the SFVA Director of Simulation and the

Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Clinical Simulation Richard Fidler, CRNA, NP, Ph.D, when he was administering anesthesia across the drape in the operating room. Fidler was describing a simulation scenario for an airway fire to which Shelley replied, “Why aren't you working with the dentists? We work in the airway all the time.”

Since that day, Fidler and Miyasaki have worked together providing medical emergency response training to dental services in VISN 21 and across the country. They understand that dental providers should have access to this training as vital members of the VA health care team.

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

In this photo, left to right, are Richard Fidler, CRNA, San Francisco; Christian Penaranda, CRNA, Miami, Florida; Craig Addison, RN, Chicago; Valerie Reid, RN, Chicago; Mary Sturgeon, DMD, San Francisco; Richard Kaplan, DMD, Milwaukee/Green Bay, Wisconsin; Kristine Schedler, DDS, Milwaukee; Ankur Patel, DDS, Milwaukee/Green Bay; Marvenia Novis, RN, San Francisco; Elizabeth Nuñez, DMD, Tampa, Florida; Lam Le, DMD, Milwaukee; and Shelley Miyasaki, DDS, San Francisco; during the Introductory to Clinical Simulation Course in February at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center in Orlando, Florida. (VA courtesy photo)

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Simulation Exchange is an award-winning publication 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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