



Simulation Exchange Volume 9, Issue 2

VHA Employee Education System sent this bulletin at 05/08/2018 05:06 PM EDT



2018 VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

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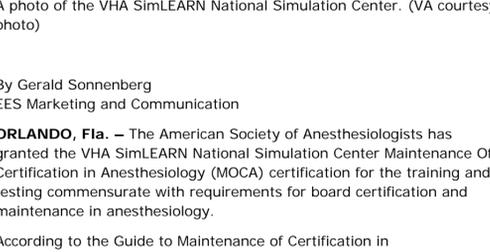
Training Catalog

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](#).



VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center awarded new certification



A photo of the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center. (VA courtesy photo)

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – The American Society of Anesthesiologists has granted the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology (MOCA) certification for the training and testing commensurate with requirements for board certification and maintenance in anesthesiology.

According to the Guide to Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology, "Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is an active process of assessment and continuous professional development that allows participants to demonstrate ongoing competency with advances in the field of medicine throughout their entire careers. The MOC concept originated with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) in 1999. As a member board of the ABMS, the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) has been charged with implementing MOC activities that will assure the public that its diplomates: Are up-to-date with knowledge of their specialties; hold unrestricted medical licenses; are respected in their practices by peers and patients; demonstrate professionalism as physicians; and continually evaluate and improve their practices."

This achievement will allow SimLEARN to provide the many anesthesiologists in VHA this required simulation-based forum for board maintenance and certification.

"To our Veterans, this means that their VA is providing the resources needed to insure that the thousands of anesthesiologists in VA medical centers across the nation maintain their skills and knowledge at an optimum level," said Dr. Patricio Bruno, SimLEARN associate medical director for training. "This will further improve the quality and safety of our Veterans who undergo surgery at a VA medical center. In addition, by gaining certification, the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center will save taxpayers thousands of dollars by providing this resource in-house, versus outsourcing it to expensive external MOCA Centers."

For more information about the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center, [click here](#).

VA doctor helps save critically ill Veteran; Simulation training aids effort



By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

AUGUSTA, Maine – Medical professionals are relied upon for their skill and heart during the most trying of times. They can also provide hope when situations seem their darkest. On a dreary evening Feb. 21, the winter weather in Maine was wet, foggy and cold as Dr. Ronnie Marrache, chief of medical services at the VA Maine Healthcare System in Augusta, arrived at a small, community hospital where he sometimes cared for patients.

Though not a Veteran himself, Dr. Marrache comes from a family of Veterans, and the VA clinician has spent nearly 17 years caring for Veterans with a passion. The New York native had just completed refresher training of sorts through a Fundamentals of Critical Care Support (FCCS) course at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center in Orlando, Florida. The course would soon prove itself useful.

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

Seats available for training courses in 2018

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – A variety of simulation training courses at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center (NSC) are now available. These courses include:

Introduction to Clinical Simulation Instructor

The available dates for this two-day course are May 15, June 12, July 10, Aug. 7 and Sept. 11.

Simulation, Technology, Operations, Maintenance, and Practices (STOMP)

The available dates for this three-day course are June 19, July 17 and Aug. 28.

Musculoskeletal (MSK) Clinician Training

The available dates for this two-day course are July 24, Aug. 21 and Sept. 5.

Fundamental Critical Care Support (FCCS) Training

The available dates for this two-and-a-half day course are June 5, July 17 and 31, and Aug. 14.

Simulations for Clinical Excellence in Nursing Services (SCENS)

The available dates for this four-day course are May 21, June 18, July 23, and Aug. 13 and 27.

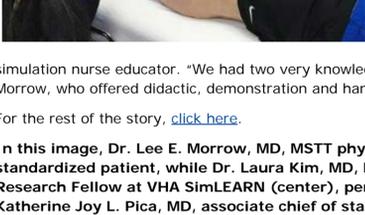
Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC)

The available dates for this two-and-a-half-day course are June 12, July 10, Aug. 7 and Sept. 11.

For details about the courses and how to register, [click here](#).



Mobile simulation team conducts first musculoskeletal training



By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

TOMAH, Wisc. - SimLEARN's Mobile Simulation Training Team's (MSTT) mission is to maximize training capacities at the local-facility level by bringing simulation-based training to health care facilities. During April 10-12, MSTT completed its first Musculoskeletal (MSK) Knee and Shoulder course training at the VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Tomah. This face-to-face simulation training is designed to enhance primary care providers' knowledge, skills and confidence to manage common musculoskeletal (MSK) problems. In addition, this training emphasizes appropriate resource utilization and access to specialty care.

"This was the first delivery of the MSTT MSK course material since the pilot, and with just a few minor adjustments to the power point presentations, the courses went off without a hitch," said Kristen M. Hanten, RN, MSN, simulation nurse educator. "We had two very knowledgeable presenters, Dr. Laura Kim and Dr. Lee Morrow, who offered didactic, demonstration and hands-on practice of the material."

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

In this image, Dr. Lee E. Morrow, MD, MSTT physician educator, is acting as the standardized patient, while Dr. Laura Kim, MD, Health Professions Education Evaluation and Research Fellow at VHA SimLEARN (center), performs the hands-on knee assessment. Dr. Katherine Joy L. Pica, MD, associate chief of staff for medicine (right), and Dr. Ayman M. Nemr, MD, both from the Tomah VAMC, observe the hands-on knee assessment. (VA photo by Kristen Hanten)

National Simulation Center hosts training for safe patient handling

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – The VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center (NSC) hosted a VHA Safe Patient Handling and Mobility (SPHM) Facilitator Coordinator training event March 27-29. The 188 staff who attended represented all of VA's Veteran Integrated Service Networks and nearly all of its major VA medical centers.

The purpose of this training was to share best practices and develop advanced hands-on skills in safe patient handling and mobilization, simulation, coaching and mentoring. They also studied the evaluation and control of ergonomic hazards, so that SPHM facility coordinators (FC) can protect staff and patients while building effective SPHM programs that reduce employee injuries, improve patient outcomes, and meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) expectations, as well as a new SPHM directive.



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

In this image, participants of the bariatric simulation station practice maneuvering a "patient" wearing a bariatric suit. (VA photo by Simon Pierre)

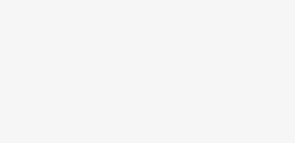
Evaluations at National Simulation Center designed to help visually impaired Veterans

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – Staff at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center here recently hosted an Integrated Process Team (IPT) from the Program Executive Office. The group of 11 VA staff was led by Kimberly Cowan-Tucker, project manager based in Houston, and it included clinicians, contracting officers and National Center Patient Safety (NCPSS) staff.

The goal of the team was to conduct technical evaluations for closed caption video systems and televisions (CCTVs). The information collected allowed the team to make recommendations on the procurement of CCTVs for visually impaired Veteran's enrolled in VA.

For more information about the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center, [click here](#).



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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