



California Health Sciences University

SIMULATION CENTER and PROGRAM

SAFETY POLICY

I. PURPOSE

This CHSU Simulation Program policy ensures the physical and psychological safety of all individuals involved in simulation.

II. SCOPE

This policy affects all Simulation Center administration and staff, CHSU faculty, staff, and participants (external and internal) who work in and with the CHSU Simulation Center.

III. POLICY

The CHSU Simulation Center and Program is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for CHSU faculty, staff, residents, students, and external customers.

The Simulation Program abides by institutional policies regarding safety:

- [CHSU Policy and Procedure for Disease Prevention Caused by Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards](#)
- [CHSU Safety Security and Emergency Response Policy](#)
- [CHSU Student Injury on Campus Policy](#)
- [CHSU Unlawful Discrimination Harassment Retaliation and Sexual Violence](#)
- [CHSU Workplace Violence](#)
- [COM Student Mental Health Policy](#)
- [CHSU Student Handbook](#)

CHSU operates with a safety program under the Assistant Vice President for Operations who is charged with providing the necessary support in the implementation of required federal, state and local safety programs and training.

A guiding principle for the CHSU Simulation Program is the establishment of psychological safety in the simulation learning environment. As stated in "Defining Excellence in Simulation Programs" (Palaganas, Maxworthy, Epps, & Mancini, 2015):

"For interprofessional students to fully engage in a team-based simulation and allow themselves to identify and explore errors, the educator must take the time to establish an environment of support, curiosity, and respect. An individual's contribution to the learning affects other team member's learning, as well as the collective learning of the group. Occasionally, a scenario may trigger memories of a prior bad experience that influences the discussion and learning of the entire group. Facilitators must be able to address such a breach in psychological safety, especially if the breach is regarding working in teams, should it arise."



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Psychological safety is particularly critical with participants who work together on a day-to-day basis. If mistakes are made during the scenario, fear, embarrassment, and judgments may carry over to the day-to-day setting, creating discomfort and mistrust among the student team(s), which may contribute long term to ineffective patient care when working with the care team.

No “real” drugs or medications are used for simulation-based activities. No real drugs or medications are to be brought into the simulation center by Center staff, CHSU faculty, internal or external clients, or students.

No invasive procedures on an individual will be performed during simulated and/or lab experiences. Preauthorization for special situations is necessary from the COM Dean.

Detailed procedures for this policy can be accessed in the Safety Policy and Procedure #350.12.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Psychological Safety – A feeling (explicit or implicit) within a simulation-based activity that participants are comfortable participating, speaking up, sharing thoughts, and asking for help as needed without concern for retribution or embarrassment.

Safe Learning Environment – A learning environment where it is clarified that learners feel physically and psychologically safe to make decisions, take actions, and interact in the simulation.

REFERENCES

Lopreiato JO (Ed.). (2016). Healthcare simulation dictionary (29). Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Lopreiato JO (Ed.). (2016). Healthcare simulation dictionary (31). Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

Simulation Center Director, staff, CHSU faculty and staff, internal and external clients and students of CHSU are responsible to uphold and follow this policy.

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- Policy Owner: Simulation Center Director
 - Effective Date: 08/22/2019
 - Approval by Provost Date: 09/05/2019
 - Approval by the President: 09/05/2019