

Communication training with the Dynamic Patient Simulator

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ABSTRACT:

Caring for hospitalized patients is a team effort of several physicians and nurses that often do not meet regularly at the patient's bedside to discuss the treatment plan. The registration and transfer of patient's medical records is therefore of vital importance in current medical practice. Since medical training ideally includes all aspects of medical practice, training of inter-physician communication should be integrated in medical curricula. Leiden University Medical Center and Amsterdam Medical Center in 2001 have started a joint project to develop twenty computer-based simulations in the Dynamic Patient Simulator (DPS) with emphasis on the training of inter-physician communication. DPS is a computer program developed in Leiden for creating and running patient simulations. Several students in a team have the responsibility for treating one virtual patient. This includes visiting the patient asynchronously, reporting their findings and treatment plan in the patient record, and practicing clear and adequate communication. To regulate the communication we created a model of the physician communication and integrated it in the DPS program. In the simulations multiple types of communication with different modalities are integrated, such as transfer of collected evidence, consulting of fellow physicians and treatment strategy including further collection of evidence, assessment and intervention. The poster shows an example of a simulation between two students.

BENEFIT TO PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING SESSION:

Clear and adequate communication between physicians is essential for the quality of patient care. By means of the Dynamic Patient Simulator we enable medical students to practice inter-physician communication during their education.