

were post-foundation doctors. Out of these, 86% reported that, compared to using paper notes, the educational EPR created a more realistic training experience. Meanwhile, 83% reported that the use of SimEPR helped improve their clinical learning. Last, 87% reported that they would recommend the simulation department to continue using SimEPR.

Conclusion: SimEPR is the first software of its kind designed specifically for UK medical education, and is the product of collaboration with a number of simulation leads and NHS-affiliated organizations. As well as data supporting a higher fidelity training experience, SimEPR incorporates digital skills into practical training, thus supporting the development of a digitally-ready workforce. In addition, by eliminating the use of paper, SimEPR contributes to the sustainable delivery of simulation-based education. Further evaluation work as part of this pioneering regional project aims to collect pre- and post-training feedback, feedback from medical educators and feedback from other healthcare disciplines.

In the longer term, SimEPR offers to transform the delivery of simulation training for the NHS workforce. The software's 'scenario-sharing' function allows sharing of simulated patient records between institutions, supporting the standardization of training while saving staff time in building training scenarios. Furthermore, features such as performance analytics for trainee feedback, and AI technology to generate interactive scenarios, are being explored.

Ethics statement: Authors confirm that all relevant ethical standards for research conduct and dissemination have been met. The submitting author confirms that relevant ethical approval was granted, if applicable.

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EDUCATION

A103 THE FUTURE OF AIDING STUDENT PLACEMENT EXPANSION: IS IT SIMULATION, IS IT SUSTAINABLE?

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[10.54531/ZZAL2905](https://doi.org/10.54531/ZZAL2905)

Background and aim: In recent years many Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have recognized the benefits of Simulation Based Education (SBE) and incorporated it into their teaching programs, in some cases utilizing it to replace traditional 'clinical placement' hours [1]. This has been catalysed by the COVID-19 pandemic whereby there has been unprecedented demands on NHS services, forcing the industry to offer alternative placement models [2].

Aim: To contribute to placement expansion by offering a simulation-based student placement.

Activity: We created a six week non-clinical, simulation placement designed to host two Physiotherapy students. The overarching objective of this placement was to enable

students to create and run their own simulation training session by their final week. They were based in the simulation team and networked with other students and clinicians to guide their research and planning.

We collated feedback from the students at the end of their six-week placement via anonymous, online Microsoft feedback forms.

Findings: Throughout 2022 we ran this placement twice and collated data from the 4 Physiotherapy students, all who were in their second year of study.

Thematic analysis suggested the most common skills students felt they gained were soft skills (i.e. organization and prioritization) and development of varied communication styles. Additional themes that were mentioned included simulation specific skills. There were two areas where students felt they were unable to develop due to the placement communicating with 'real' patients and clinical note writing. Students were asked to score their clinical knowledge relating to their chosen simulation topic area at the beginning and end of the placement. Scores increased from 'Good' (2 students) and 'Average' (2 students) at the beginning of the placement to 'Good' (1 student) and 'Very Good' (3 Students) at the end of the placement.

Qualitative themes suggested the students felt the overall variety of activities and exposure to clinical scenarios/teams they may not have seen before was unique to this placement and both enjoyable and valuable.

Conclusion: Previous studies have identified misconceptions relating to the purpose of simulation and its aims [1]. Our data reflected this concept as students rated their knowledge of simulation at the beginning of the placement as 'Very Minimal'. However, our placement offering has proven to successfully increase this awareness and offer the opportunity to develop transferable skills and clinical knowledge in a way that is both exciting and aids placement expansion whilst incurring minimal cost.

Ethics statement: Authors confirm that all relevant ethical standards for research conduct and dissemination have been met. The submitting author confirms that relevant ethical approval was granted, if applicable.

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TECHNOLOGY

A104 A VIRTUAL MUSCULOSKELETAL CASE HISTORY SIMULATION WITH SERVICE USERS FOR PRE-REGISTRATION PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENTS

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[10.54531/WZQJ2908](https://doi.org/10.54531/WZQJ2908)

Background and aim: Within health care provision many case history assessments are now performed online [1], with students expected to utilize a variety of virtual platforms in a safe, effective and professional manner.

Aim: To approximate a real environment for students to practice virtual skills of case history assessment with service users.

Objectives: Student development of: 1. Virtual communication skills (verbal, non-verbal, active listening, respect), 2. Clinical reasoning and interpretation, and 3. Reflective skills facilitated by debrief.

Activity: Simulation preparation including revision of musculoskeletal assessment and familiarization with virtual ground rules linked to HCPC Guidance on Conduct and Ethics [2].

42 students participated, split into groups of 14 for each virtual simulation session with a total of 5 service users briefed beforehand. Initial warm-up activities in breakout rooms were used to familiarize students with use of the online platform and to facilitate virtual communication skills. Groups of 4 students planned and undertook a virtual musculoskeletal case history with a service user.

The Diamond structure for simulation debrief [3] was facilitated by Faculty staff involving the service users and peers; enabling further development of the students' clinical reasoning and interpretation. Students reflected on their own performance using a simulation checklist as a resource, closing the loop by creating an action plan prior to their first practice placement.

Findings: 25 students voluntarily completed an anonymous questionnaire linked to their virtual experiential learning activity. 75% strongly agreed and 21% agreed that the simulation was helpful in their development for placements (see Figure 1-A122).

Thematic analysis of good aspects of the activity identified 4 main themes:

1. Benefits and realism of service user involvement compared to actors or peers
2. Development of virtual communication and assessment skills
3. Richness of involvement of service users in the debrief
4. Usefulness of warm up activities using virtual technology

Suggestions for improvement showed 2 main themes around increasing planning time and more opportunities for simulation with service users.

Findings demonstrated the simulation aims and objectives were met with students positively reporting that the activity was helpful in their learning ahead of practice placements - enabling development of virtual communication, clinical reasoning/ interpretation and reflection through debrief.

Conclusion: Approximation of a real environment for students to practice virtual case history assessment incorporating service users offers a rich educational example that aligns well with practice and sustainability in the current healthcare environment and is highly valued by students.

Ethics statement: Authors confirm that all relevant ethical standards for research conduct and dissemination have been met. The submitting author confirms that relevant ethical approval was granted, if applicable.

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EDUCATION

A105

THE USE OF SIMULATION TO DEVELOP CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS IN PRACTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFYING PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENTS

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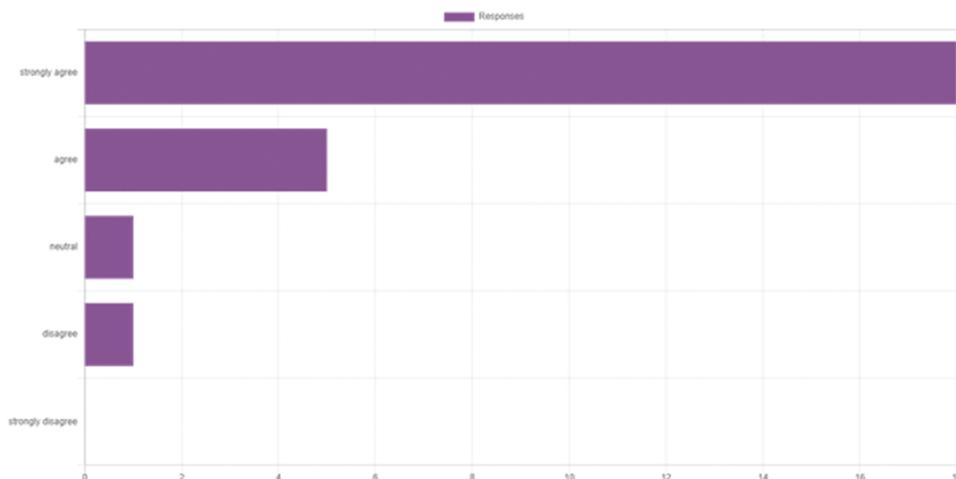


Figure 1-A104: Graph to show student response that virtual musculoskeletal simulation with service users was helpful in their development for placements