Clinical Simulation Debriefing Tool
Observer notes during simulation. May include critical incident checklist items.

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<th>Events &amp;/or Observations During Simulation</th>
<th>Outcome / Reaction / Action</th>
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**Learning Objectives:**
“Mistakes are puzzles to be solved, not crimes to be punished”

Debriefing Structure

Debriefing with good judgment – Basic assumption is that everyone attending:
  • is an intelligent, well trained clinician
  • cares about doing their best
  • wants to improve

Beginning – Emotional reactions

Questions:
  1. How do you feel now (or during experience)?
  2. What happened? (Initially, what went wrong often the focus, encourage discussion of what went well. Review videotape segments if recorded)

Middle – Analysis, understanding, generalization to practice

Questions:
  1. What objectives were you able to achieve? Did not achieve?
  2. Did you have the knowledge and skills to meet the objectives?
  3. What would you do differently next time?
  4. What did you learn new from the case?

Use observed behaviors and their outcomes to start discussion. Allow students to express their thinking that culminated in a particular course of action. Debriefer provides feedback on how the student’s performance fell short of the expected performance (skills, knowledge, attitudes, standards of care). To change behavior, students need to understand techniques to improve future performance.

Debriefing with “Advocacy-Inquiry” technique for posing a question to encourage reflection:
  1. Advocacy – Statement that includes an objective observation of a behavior and a subjective judgment of the student’s actions
  2. Inquiry – genuine question to elicit students’ thought process [see questions above].

ACTUAL ACTION — PERFORMANCE GAP — DESIRED ACTIONS

End (summarize what was learned and translate into principles to improve practice)

Statements/observations (debriefer summarizes or encourages students to provide answers):
  1. These are the things you told me you need to work on __________________________________________
  2. The take home points include (change in practice) __________________________________________

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