

STANDARDIZED PATIENTS

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OBJECTIVES

- Define standardized patients (SPs)
- List the advantages/disadvantages of SPs
- Describe the use or practice of using SPs
- Relate the flexibility of SPs to other simulation
- Understand the feedback mechanism of SPs
- Discuss the availability of SPs
- List the steps in developing a SP case

What is a SP

Person trained to present a clinical scenario in the same manner as a real patient for teaching and evaluation.



Standardizations

- **Consistent every time!**
 - Verbal, behavioral
- Optimal learning environment based on experience and objectives
- Allows us to compare and contrast unique performances
- Testing
 - More predictable
 - Reliable
 - Fair



Advantages of SPs

- Validity
- Availability
- Reliability
- Controllability
- Problem based learning
- Adaptability
- Minimal risk
- Feedback
- Extension of faculty



Use of SPs

- Interviewing skills (history)
- Physical exam skills
- Safe setting
- New skills w/o risking of comfort, modesty, safety of a “real” patient
- Learner centered rather than patient centered
- Therapeutic communication---psychiatric/behavioral/ethical
- Cross-cultural
- SP “families”



Use of SPs

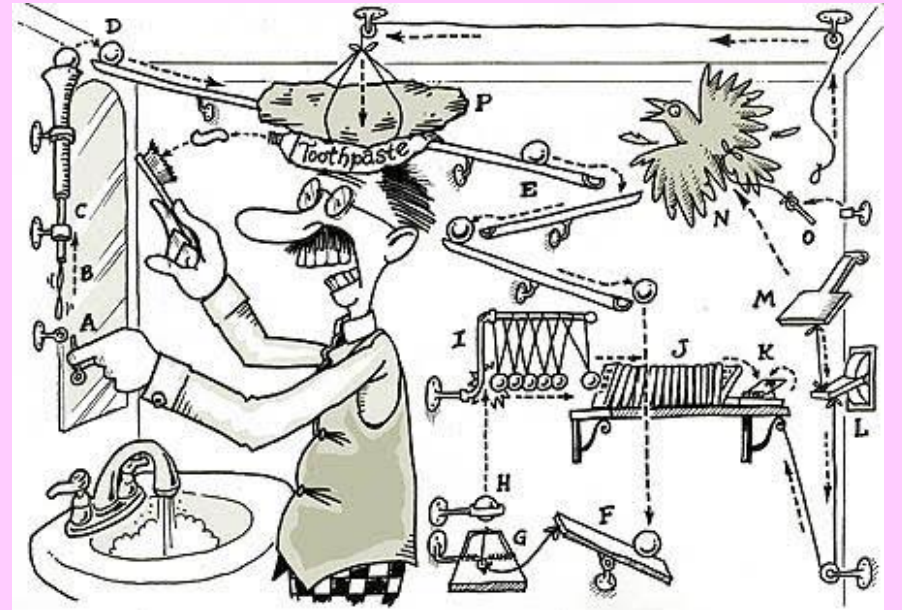
- Domestic violence
- Angry/frustrated patients
- Bad-news cases
- Diagnosis, management
- Clinical errors—how to correct
- Transition from task to real pts.
- Evaluate the teaching



All without risk!

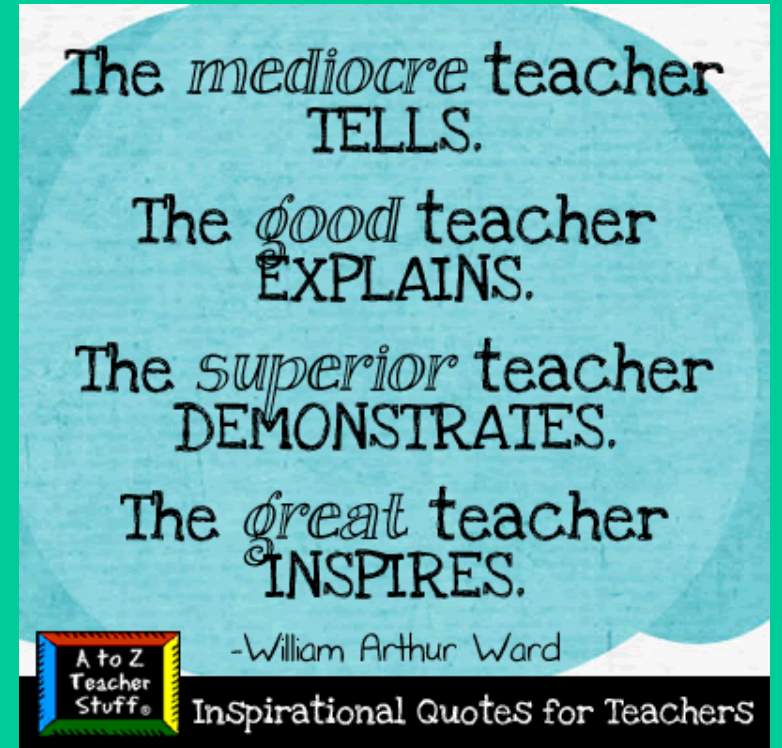
Adaptability

- Adjusted to meet needs of learner
- Simple to complex
- Team interaction



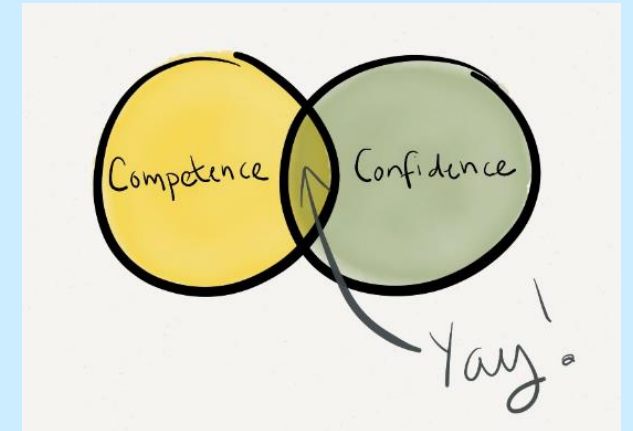
Flexibility

- Can “freeze” scenario
 - Discuss
 - Teachable moment
 - Red/yellow cards
- Change: more anger or resistance
- Sister scenario
- Optimized based on experience level



Feedback

- Patient provides feedback to learner
 - Manners
 - Attitudes
 - Interpersonal skills
 - Confidence
 - Communication
- Videotape use discussion (legality, self review)
- Immediate
- Use check list/scripts (objective)



Unique as only source of feedback from a patient's point of view

Assessment

- Informal assessment & feedback
 - Low stakes
 - Ungraded
 - Pass/fail
- Formative final for grade
- Progression to next level
 - High stakes
 - Summative/Capstone

Question: Do you see future hiring practices in demonstrations?



Availability

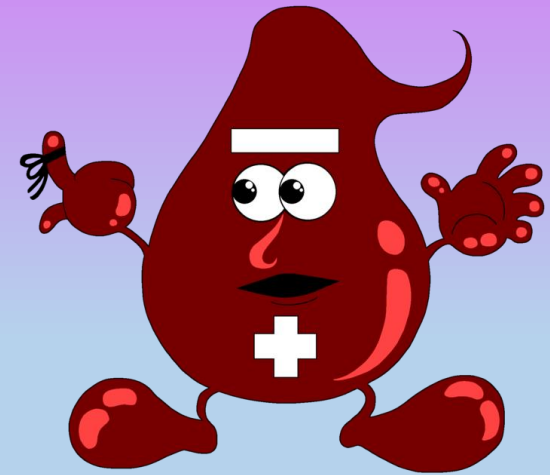
- Particular case available at all times
- Retirees
- Healthcare instructors/families
- Students family members
- School family members
- Advisory Committee

Feed them lunch!



Developing a SP Case

- **First—objectives**
 - Teaching
 - Evaluation
 - Combination
- **What skills**
 - Level
 - Time frame
 - Equipment/moulage/setting



Developing a Case

- Access those available
- Script from a real patient
- ID competencies, behaviors
- List appropriate sequence
- Be specific
- Procedure check list (IVs)
- Informed consent



All one needs to begin utilizing SPs is:

One volunteer



One judge

One room



One camera