



<b>UT Health Science Center:</b>	
<b>SIM107 Sim Physical and Psychological Safety</b>	
<b>Version 1</b>	<b>Publication Date: 05/27/2022</b>

<b>No./Title:</b> SIM107 – Sim Physical and Psychological Safety	<b>Resp. Office:</b> CHIPS <b>Approval Body:</b> CASA	<b>Effective Date:</b> 01/15/2019
<b>Category:</b> Simulation	<b>Last Review:</b> 01/15/2019	<b>Next Review:</b> 01/15/2022
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<b>Related Policies:</b>	SIM100 – Sim Confidentiality SIM104 – Sim Media Capture	

## DEFINITIONS

- 1) Basic assumption: the belief that all participants in simulation are intelligent, well-trained, cares about doing their best, and wants to improve.
- 2) Participants: anyone involved in or observers of simulation activity (e.g., students, learners, educators, instructors, faculty, staff, or observers)
- 3) 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.
- 4) Safety phrase: A phrase agreed upon by participants prior to initiation of the simulation that indicates a true emergency has occurred or is occurring that requires attention. A generally accepted safety phrase is “This is not a simulation” which terminates the simulation for the reasons of physical and/or psychological safety.
- 5) Simulation Faculty/Facilitators [referred to in this document simply as “Faculty/Facilitators”]: Any person meeting minimum simulation competencies, as determined by the Director of Education, who is associated with the delivery and/or planning of the simulation activity
- 6) Standard Precautions: minimum infection prevention practices that apply to all patient care, in any setting where health care is delivered.

## POLICY

CHIPS is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all participants. Because the nature of simulation can pose physical and/or psychological risks to participants, Faculty/Facilitators are expected to follow appropriate procedures and best practices to ensure the participants are as safe, both physically and psychologically, as possible.

## PROCEDURE

- 1) Faculty/Facilitator and CHIPS staff should act in accordance with UTHSC Campus Safety and Emergency Management initiatives which can be found here: <https://www.uthsc.edu/campus-safety/index.php>

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- 2) Faculty/Facilitators are responsible for an effective pre-brief which includes, at a minimum, the following elements:
  - a. Describe the basic assumption.
  - b. Encourage participants to suspend disbelief.
  - c. Ensure participants are aware of educational objectives.
  - d. Ensure participants are aware of confidentiality and media capture policies.
  - e. Encourage participants to use respectful communication and mutual support.
  - f. Properly orient participants to the simulation environment.
  - g. Ensure participants are aware of the safety phrase.
- 3) Faculty/Facilitators for educational and formative assessment activities should follow best practices to ensure a safe learning environment.
- 4) In the event that a participant becomes uncomfortable or threatened by the simulation, the Faculty/Facilitators will determine the appropriate course of action including whether to continue or stop the simulation.
- 5) In the event a participant's physical or psychological safety is compromised, the Faculty/Facilitators:
  - a. The simulation should be terminated.
  - b. If warranted, the emergency medical response system should be activated.
  - c. If warranted, the participant's emotional reaction to the simulation should be discussed in a private setting.
  - d. A CHIPS Staff Director or Assistant Director should be notified.
  - e. Faculty/Facilitators will be responsible for following up with the participants.
- 6) CHIPS does not accommodate activity that requires animal tissue. These activities should be referred to the General Education Building (GEB).
- 7) Hand hygiene and Sharps safety, as described by the Center for Disease Control's Standard Precautions, should always be practiced. At the discretion of the Faculty/Facilitator, participants may be required to practice additional standard precautions.
- 8) Any participants with known latex allergies should disclose to the Faculty/Facilitator. When this occurs, the Faculty/Facilitator should work with CHIPS staff to ensure there is no risk of latex exposure.
- 9) Any UTHSC participant that incurs a physical injury should be evaluated by [University Health Services](#).
- 10) Any non-UTHSC participant that incurs a physical injury should inquire with their primary organization/employer for direction.
- 11) Any UTHSC participant that incurs a psychological injury should be referred to [University Health Services](#) or, in the case of students, the [Office of Student Academic Support Services and Inclusion](#).

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- 12) Any non-UTHSC participant that incurs a psychological injury should inquire with their primary organization/employer for referral to a behavioral health assistant program or other resource as determined by the primary organization/employer.

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### **APPROVAL HISTORY**

Effective: January 15, 2019, Committee on Academic and Student Affairs (CASA)

Approved: January 15, 2019, Chancellor