

**UT Health Science Center:
SIM107 Sim Physical and Psychological Safety**

No./Title: SIM107 – Sim Physical and Psychological Safety		Resp. Office: CHIPS Approval Body: CASA	Effective Date: 01/15/2019
Category: Simulation		Last Review: 06/07/2022	Next Review: 06/07/2025
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Related Policies:	SIM100 – Sim Confidentiality SIM104 – Sim Media Capture SIM109 – Sim Equipment, Supplies- Separation		

DEFINITIONS

- 1) Basic assumption: the belief that all participants in simulation are intelligent, well-trained, care about doing their best, and want 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/Facilitators 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>
- 2) Faculty/Facilitators are responsible for an effective pre-brief which includes, at a minimum, the following elements:
 - a. Basic assumption

- b. Suspension of disbelief
 - c. Educational objectives
 - d. Confidentiality and media capture policies
 - e. Respectful communication and mutual support
 - f. Orientation to simulation environment and equipment
 - g. Safety phrase
- 3) 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.
- 4) Although CHIPS is primarily a latex-free facility, 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.
- 5) In the event that a participant becomes psychologically uncomfortable or threatened by the simulation, the Faculty/Facilitators will:
- a. determine the appropriate course of action, including whether to continue or stop the simulation.
 - b. If warranted, the participant's emotional reaction to the simulation should be discussed in a private setting.
 - c. A CHIPS Staff Director or Assistant Director should be notified.
 - d. 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](#).
 - e. 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.
 - f. Faculty/Facilitators will be responsible for following up with the participants.
- 6) In the event a participant's physical safety is compromised, the Faculty/Facilitators will:
- a. Terminate the simulation.
 - b. Activate the emergency medical response system, if warranted.
 - c. Notify a CHIPS Staff Director or Assistant Director.
 - d. Suggest any injured UTHSC participant to be evaluated by [University Health Services](#).
 - e. Suggest any injured non-UTHSC participant to inquire with their primary organization/employer for direction on injury evaluation.
 - f. Ensure proper protocol is followed when filing a Campus Incident Report.
 - g. Follow up with any injured participant if an evaluation occurs.

APPROVAL HISTORY

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

Approved: January 15, 2019, Chancellor

Approved: June 7, 2022, CASA

Approved: June 16, 2022 Chief Academic Officer