Prebriefing: A Guide for Online, Remote and Virtual Simulations

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Prebriefing

- A planned element to prepare participants for the simulated experience
- Create a safe learning environment
- Based on level of your learner and the learning objectives
- Brief participants on expectations and rules of conduct
- Orient to the learning environment
- Provide background information or preparation materials to the participant

Remote and Virtual Simulations and Prebriefing

Includes synchronous (LIVE) and asynchronous activities such as
- online case study discussions
- discussion boards
- virtual patient encounters
- serious games
- commercial simulation products
- other online/virtual methods of simulation

GOAL → Establish a Safe Online Environment for Learning
Prebriefing – Questions to Ask During Activity Design

- What are your objectives for the simulation and level of your participants?
- Have they used this learning platform previously?
- Will the simulated experience be live (synchronous) or recorded and viewed later (asynchronous)?
- How will debriefing occur?
- How will participants be evaluated?
- How will you guide the participants through the learning environment?
- What content preparation will they need to be successful?
Create A Safe Learning Environment

For all Remote/Virtual Experiences:

• Review expectations of confidentiality, privacy, and the recording policy
• Establish a “fiction contract” or suspension of belief
• Provide orientation to virtual simulation software, video conferencing software, or any other technology
• Identify available resources and how to request help
Review of Online Communication Etiquette with Learners

- Always conduct yourself collegially and professionally
- What is said or “typed” in an online or recorded environment is documented and not easily erased
- Remember sarcasm and humor is sometimes lost in an online setting, so be mindful of comments and stay on topic
- Be respectful of the ideas and thoughts of others
- Inappropriate interactions, disrespectful comments and language will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the activity
Prebriefing for Live Virtual/Remote Simulation

• Provide introductions and identify roles
  • ensure that each person logged in has their name visible
  • introduce everyone in the chat room – even tech support if present
  • assign roles to participants
  • discuss and clarify descriptions, expectations and responsibilities of assigned scenario roles and observers

• Discuss plan for the day and online session, time frame expectations and other logistical matters such as bathroom/food breaks

• Discuss simulation safety
Prebriefing for Live Online/Remote Simulation

Review expectations for using audio, video, and mute settings

- Do a quick sound and video check to ensure everyone can hear
- Suggest mute if not talking
- If not using live video – consider a still image
- If using only audio, introduce yourself before speaking
- If available, use a neutral background image or blur background (to decrease distractions)
- Discuss the chat function
- Encourage verbalization of actions and thoughts
Stay Safe – Simulate from Home!

Support the participants
Be flexible
Establish safe learning

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