

SIMULATED PATIENTS – GUIDELINES

These guidelines aim to clarify the manner in which Simulated Patients (SPs) should interact with students during practical teaching sessions and OSCE examinations.

1. SPs should arrive at the correct location in good time and with the requested attire. The teaching schedule is tight as the under graduate students have a full programme in the school every day.
2. SPs should be familiar with the scenario for the teaching session in good time prior to the session. If they have any doubts they should consult the relevant administrator for communication or clinical skills.
3. SPs should endeavour to behave in the classroom as they would in a GP surgery or hospital environment. This is the most realistic setting to place the students in.
4. SPs should treat the students with respect but avoid over-familiarity. Although they are young and inexperienced the students are learning how to deal with the patients they will encounter in the work place.
5. For history giving sessions in clinical skills, SPs should respond only to the questions asked by the student. SPs should avoid reading from printed copies of the scenarios and delivering the complete content of the scenario without being prompted. This can be confusing for the student who needs time to process the information received in order to ask the next question.
6. For communications skills, training and instructions on how to act / respond will be provided within the scenarios.
7. SPs should avoid pre-empting aspects of physical examinations. We understand the examinations are repeated many times in practical and OSCE sessions, but it is important that you only respond to student requests otherwise students can gain an unfair advantage, or become confused, and it makes assessment difficult for tutors/examiners.
8. Feedback should be helpful and constructive. SPs should avoid giving very negative comments to the students directly but direct these to the tutors.
9. Although physical ailments you were unaware of may become apparent during examinations and clinical staff may discuss this with you, SPs should avoid treating these sessions as a substitute for seeking medical advice from their own GP.
10. For security reasons it is best to avoid giving your real name along with your actual date of birth when participating in sessions that are being filmed.