

Using Simulation Activities to Meet Requirements of the Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP)

What is Simulation?

Simulation-based education is a learning strategy that places learners in mock clinical scenarios to practice and rehearse clinical skills. It provides an opportunity to gather feedback from peers, learners and/or simulated patients, reflect on strengths and identify opportunities for change.

In simulation, physicians work within a team in a simulated environment to navigate a patient's medical care or to test systems, protocols or workflows.



After the conclusion of the clinical scenario, a simulation facilitator conducts a debrief to capture feedback from all participants. The facilitator guides physicians to reflect on their performance, identify strengths and state goals for improvement.

What is PPIP?

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) has implemented the Physician Practice Improvement Program to enable learning, foster reflection, and empower change within the profession. In each five-year cycle (which aligns with the continuing professional development cycle of the College of Family Physicians of Canada or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada), physicians must complete each of three PPIP activities:

- Practice-driven QI activity
- CPSA standards of practice QI activity
- Personal development activity

To learn more about PPIP, please review [this website](#)

How can I use simulation activities to meet my PPIP requirements?

Here are some ideas of how physicians can use simulation activities toward PPIP requirements:



Practice-Driven Quality Improvement Activity

If the simulation focus, debrief and reflections are on clinical decision-making, protocols, screening process, workflow improvements, etc., the simulation, debrief and reflection can be used towards a Practice-Driven Quality Improvement Activity. It is essential that the activity incorporates **data** and includes a **documented action plan**.

Read more about practice-driven quality improvement [here](#)



CPSA's Standards of Practice Quality Improvement

Reflect on a CPSA Standard of Practice as a benchmark to reflect on your practice and assess adherence. It is essential that the activity is based on a **CPSA standard of practice**, incorporates **data** and includes a **documented action plan**. For example, in choosing the *Patient Record Content*, you can identify opportunities to ensure patient medical records are complete. For each simulation case you do, you can write up a patient encounter note. The CPSA website has a record review and self-reflection activity that you can use to review your simulation case encounter notes. (You can, of course, use REAL, non-simulated patient encounter notes instead.)

Read more about CPSA's standard of practice quality Improvement [here](#).



Personal Development Activity

If the simulation focus, debrief, reflections and included data are focused on CanMEDs roles (Communicator, Collaborator, Leader, Health Advocate, Scholar, Professional), the simulation, debrief and reflection can be used towards a Personal Development Activity. If you are a simulation facilitator, another idea is reviewing participant feedback and reflecting on your teaching practice. It is essential that these options incorporate **data**, **facilitation** (via colleague, direct supervisor, formal facilitator, trained coach, dedicated modules for self-facilitated reflection, etc.), and includes a **documented action plan**.

Read more about personal development [here](#)

The following pages include sample templates for you to record your PPIP activities. These do not need to be submitted to the CPSA but should be kept for your own records.



Practice-Driven Quality Improvement

Simulation Description

(e.g., systems integration simulation)

e.g., clinical decision-making, protocols, screening protocols, screening processes, workflow improvements

Data Source(s)

(e.g., debrief data/observations, metrics extracted from simulation)

Data/Feedback Received

Strengths Identified

SMART Goals for Improvement

(Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely)

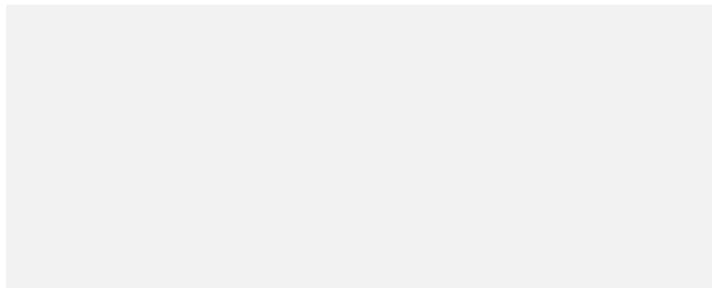
(Strategies to enhance your practice)



Example of how to use simulation for CPSA's Standard of Practice Quality Improvement:

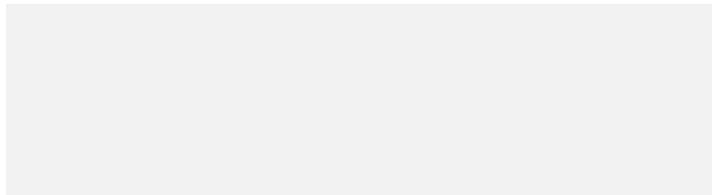
- Attend a simulation session
- Document clinical encounter
- Once you have collected ~10 patient records from simulation cases, use CPSA's self-directed tool to evaluate your patient record content
- Reflect, and document an action plan

CPSA Standard of Practice Used as Benchmark



e.g., Patient Record Content Standard of Practice

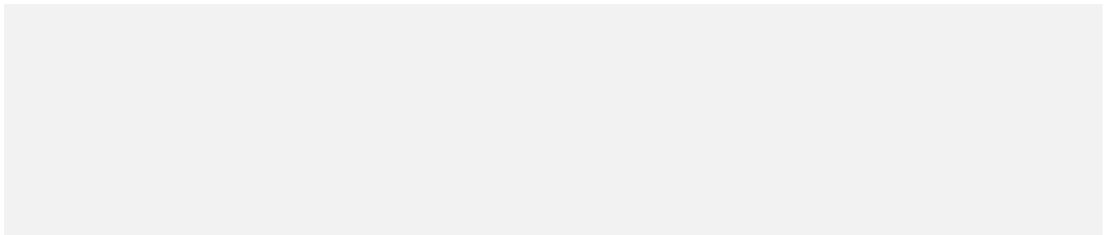
Data Source(s)



Example of a CPSA Standard of Practice—Patient Record Content

This page has a self-directed record review tool to evaluate your clinical encounter notes (simulation or real-life patient records).

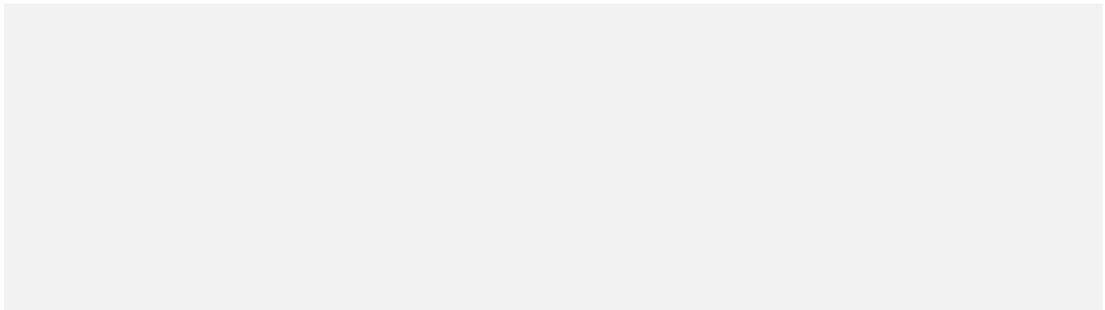
Data and Reflection



SMART Goals for Improvement

(Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely)

(Strategies to improve your adherence to the Standard of Practice)





Personal Development Activity

Simulation Description

e.g., simulation focused on CanMEDS role

Role

(e.g., participant or facilitator)

Data/Feedback Source(s)

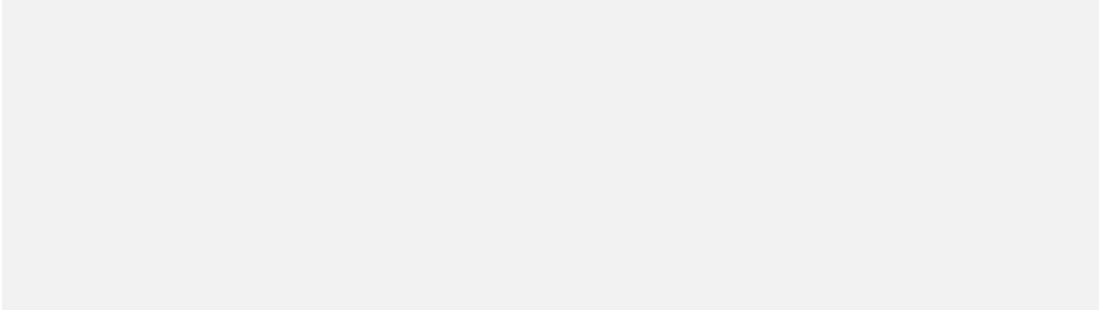
(e.g., debrief data/observations, feedback on simulation facilitation)

Facilitated Feedback Received

Who Facilitated the Feedback?

(colleague, direct supervisor, formal facilitator, self-facilitated reflection module, etc.)

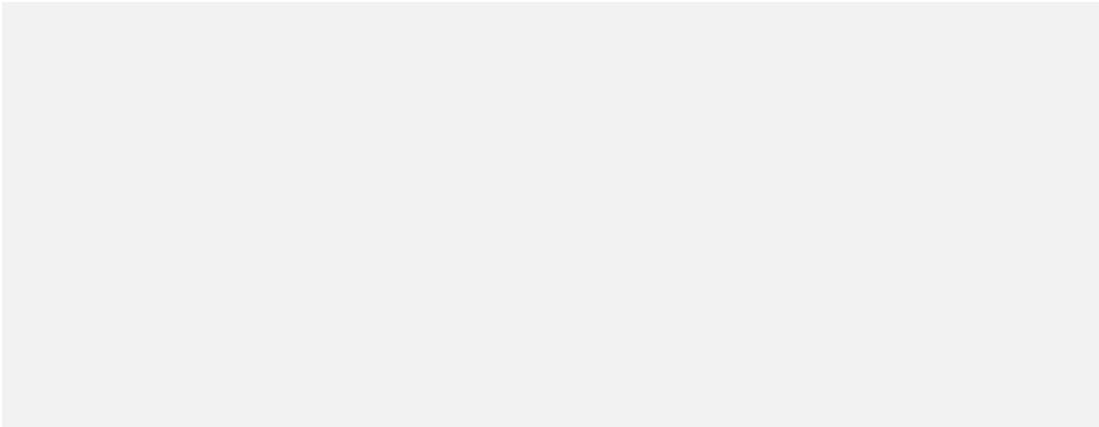
Strengths Identified



SMART Goals for Improvement

(Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely)

(Strategies to enhance CanMEDS competencies)



Other PPIP Activities

Although simulation may be used for PPIP activities, there are other ways to complete a PPIP activity. Below is more information about how to complete PPIP activities. You can also review the requirements below to see how they can be adapted to simulation.

A practice-driven quality improvement activity using data.

Elements:

- **Mandatory:** Use data and develop an action plan
- Optional: Facilitation

Suggestions:

- Review your triplicate prescribing data through [MD Snapshot-Prescribing - College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta | CPSA](#).
- Use MD Snapshot-Prescribing for this PPIP activity: [Information and Action Plan](#)
- Review and reflect on objective data from the Health Quality Alberta, CII/PAR, AHS metrics, EMR metrics, etc.
- Please visit the CPSA website for further information on sources of data: [Practice-Driven Quality Improvement](#)

A quality improvement activity to assess and improve adherence to the CPSA's Standards of Practice (SOP).

Elements:

- **Mandatory:** Use a CPSA standard of practice, incorporate data and develop an action plan
- Optional: Facilitation

Suggestions:

- Complete a self-assessment to identify areas for improvement using a SOP. Review patient charts to ensure they are compliant with elements of a SOP such as:
 - Referral Consultation
 - Sample action plan: [Action-Plan-SOP-Referral-Consultation.pdf](#)
 - Patient Record Content
 - Sample action plan: [Action-Plan-SOP-Patient-Record-Content-Clinic.pdf](#)
 - Disclosure Of Harm
 - Sample action plan: [Action-Plan-SOP-Disclosure-of-Harm.pdf](#)
 - Continuity of Care
 - Sample action plan: [Action-Plan-SOP-Continuity-of-Care-Episodic.pdf](#)
 - The full list of CPSA SOPs can be found on the website: [Standards of Practice](#)
- Complete a self-directed SOP metric using [CPSA SOP](#)



A **personal development** activity involving collecting feedback focused on attributes of communicator, professional, scholar, collaborator, health advocate and/or leader.

Elements:

- **Mandatory: Use data, facilitation and develop an action plan**

Suggestions:

- Multi-source feedback such as [Pulse 360](#) or patient feedback such as [HQA Surveying Patients About Primary Care Experience](#).
- Wellness information such as fatigue and burnout scale results. For example:
 - [Maslach Burnout Inventory](#)
 - [Princeton U Matter Wellness Self-Assessment](#)
 - [Implicit Bias Training](#)
 - Sample action plan: [Action-Plan-Personal-Development-Implicit-Bias.pdf](#)
 - [Compassion Measure | Home](#)

While facilitation is recommended for all the PPIP activities, it is only mandatory for personal development activities. Facilitation can be done with a colleague, direct supervisor, formal facilitator, trained coach or through a dedicated self-reflection module. Resources and tools are available for self-reflection through the [Physician Learning Program](#), [My Practice Improvement \(MyPi\)](#) or [MyL3Plan](#).

For questions/feedback on simulation use for PPIP, email eSIM@ahs.ca