

**SIMULATED PATIENTS – GUIDELINES**

These guidelines aim to clarify the manner in which Simulated Patients (SPs) should interact with students.

1. SPs should arrive at the right location in good time and with the requested attire. The teaching schedule is tight as the under graduate students have a full programme.
2. SPs should be familiar with the scenario for the teaching session. If in doubt they should consult the lead academic or administrator.
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 instructions on how to act / respond will be provided within the scenarios.
7. Feedback should be helpful and constructive. SPs should avoid giving very negative comments to the students directly but direct these to the mentors.
8. Although physical ailments you were unaware of may become apparent during examinations and clinical staff will be happy to discuss this with you, SPs should avoid treating these sessions as a substitute for seeking medical advice from their own GP.

<b>Author:</b>	Executive Administrator (DCM)	<b>Approval Committee:</b>	
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