

Veteran-Centric Simulation

School/Agency: Providence VA Medical Center

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We developed a Veteran simulation for physical assessment and used this simulation with nursing staff, and with students in their Psych Mental health rotation. We also modified a simulation used in beginning medical-surgical nursing to have a Veteran component and use the simulation with 15 students. We plan on modifying another simulation that we do with the senior medical-surgical nursing students, the nurse practitioner students and social work students to also include a Veteran component. Here is a brief description of each simulation.

- Scenario 1: A Veteran who is admitted with abdominal pain. From a comprehensive nursing assessment nurses are expected to identify alcohol use, utilize the CIWA-Ar audit tool, implement the CIWA protocol and interact appropriately with this agitated simulated patient.
- Scenario 2: A Veteran who is a smoker and has COPD. He is being admitted to a non-VA hospital with an exacerbation. From assessment students are expected to identify that he is a Veteran, and that his nightmare\flashbacks may be a precipitating factor in this exacerbation. Students educated the simulated patient about services available to him at the VA such as smoking cessation and PTSD management.
- Scenario 3: This 26 year old college student is a Veteran of OEF who has an acute asthma exacerbation. On assessment the social worker and nursing students will identify that he has not been taking his maintenance medications because he can't afford them. Students will be expected to refer the simulated patient to the VA for eligibility for reduced cost prescriptions.