

# Integrating Situational Assessment Checks into **Telebehavioral Health Standardized Patient Simulation**

### INTRODUCTION

**Background**: Addresses a critical challenge in nursing education – enhancing clinical judgment and communication skills in pre-licensure students, particularly in the context of telebehavioral health. **Objective**:

- ✓ To integrate Situational Awareness Global Assessment Technique (SAGAT) into a tele health standardized patient simulation (SPS).
- ✓ Use CLT-informed structuring to manage cognitive load and enhancing learning.

### METHODS

Simulation design: Adheres to HSSoBP & NLN Simulation Design Template (02/2023)

**Focus**: Students often struggle with therapeutic communication due to:

- > Limited real-world clinical exposure
- ➤ Gaps in preparation
- > The complexity of simulation scenarios (e.g., managing coexisting mental and neurological conditions)

**Development process**: Involvement of simulation experts, mental health and Parkinson's disease specialists.

### RESULTS

### SA Checks Guided by Goal-Directed Tasks

First check during information gathering phase:

✓ To support learners in organizing patient data and identifying priorities while minimizing overload from competing cues. Second check during transition to planning and intervention phase:

To help learners synthesize findings and ensure readiness to implement interventions.

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Learners prepare the simulation with detailed pre-work, structured pre-brief and broke simulation progression down with SA guided checks. This approach reduced intrinsic load by progressively introducing complexity.

Clarify logistics upfront, give clear scenario progression outlines, and purposeful and controlled SP cues to help students





# Mrs. XX, Age 46

## **APPLICABILITY TO RESEARCH AND PRACTICE**

nursing curricula. **Bridges educational gaps** 

By actively engaging in simulated interactions, students could build strong mental schemas, enhancing the germane load and fostering better retention and application of skills.



**History**: Diagnosed with chronic depression (since age 16), and Parkinson's disease (5 year ago) **Situation**: Voluntarily admitted to a behavioral health unit due to suicidal ideation lasting 2 weeks, discharged one week ago

**Presenting concerns**: Contacted the outpatient Nurse Line reporting feelings of hopelessness, social isolation and frustration with progression of illness **Simulation format**: Telehealth encounter with a nurse and a student portraying a family member

### Support competency-based assessment

✓ Aligns with INACSL's research priorities by integrating structured assessment checkpoints and benchmarks for therapeutic communication.

### Informs curriculum development

✓ Offers a replicable model for integrating simulation into

✓ Addresses critical challenges such as limited placement, inconsistent communication skills and resources, and growing demand for telehealth.

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