Enhancing Advanced-Level Competencies with Low-Technology Simulations: A Pilot Study

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INTRODUCTION

- Designing advanced practice (AP) simulations for pediatric skin assessment and clinical decision-making is challenging¹
- Pictocards affordable, life-size images of children – are a low-technology solution for simulating pediatric skin conditions²
- Pictocards are effective in undergraduate nursing education³; use in AP simulation remains unstudied

PURPOSE

Evaluate the effectiveness of integrating pictocards into a pediatric primary care simulation for family nurse practitioner students

METHODS

- IRB Not Human Subjects Determination
- Simulation design guided by:
 - NLN Jeffries Simulation Theory⁴
 - INACSL Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice®⁵
- Three predesigned trademark pictocard cases representing: 1) Measles, 2) Varicella, 3) Normal skin findings
- Prebriefing
- Learners reviewed history of illness, assessed the skin, documented findings, developed differentials, and identified further information needed to narrow diagnoses
- Plus-delta debrief⁶
- Simulation Effectiveness Tool-Modified (SET-M)⁷ used to assess simulation effectiveness



Low-technology simulations can be effective in impacting competency development in advanced practice nursing education







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RESULTS

- Participants: 27 Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students
- Average Overall SET-M Score (out of max of 3): 2.79
- On open-ended SET-M question learners:
- Reported simulation useful for their learning
- Recommended a tactile component to be more realistic

DISCUSSION

- Pictocard simulations offer an accessible, low-technology strategy to support competency development in AP education
- This approach provides meaningful engagement with lowfrequency, high-impact skin conditions often missed in clinical practice⁸

MORE FIGURES AND TABLES

Table 1. SET-M Subscale Results

SUBSCALE	M (SD)
Prebriefing	2.76 (0.03)
Learning	2.71 (0.12)
Confidence	2.73 (0.05)
Debriefing	2.93 (0.02)
Overall (n=27)	2.79 (0.12)

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