



# Elevating Simulation Observations

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## Introduction

- Clinical judgment (CJ) is essential, but declining<sup>1,2</sup>
- Observers gain significant CJ<sup>3,4</sup>
- Learners approach observation differently based on ability<sup>3</sup>
- Scaffolding complexity too soon also easily overwhelms observers' CJ<sup>5</sup>
- Providing pre-briefing allows for more uniform simulation preparation<sup>6,7</sup>
- There is a gap in understanding how pre-briefing impacts observers' CJ

## Methods

- Mixed factorial with pre-briefing type as between subjects and time as within
- 96 junior-level simulation naïve learners
- Grouped by cohort and either received traditional pre-briefing ( $n=61$ ) or observer-specific pre-briefing ( $n=35$ )
- Learners then observed expert-modeled simulations
- Responded to 11 clinical judgment prompts linked to Lasater Clinical Judgment Rubric (LCJR) prior to debriefing
- Scored reflection responses using LCJR
- Pre-briefing, simulation observations, and CJ prompts were completed for eight scenarios
- Two-way mixed ANOVAs compared how pre-briefing methods impact CJ over time

## Intervention

- Traditional pre-briefing included learners creating their own situation, background problem list, planned assessment, and recommend priorities after reviewing patient information sheets
- Observer-specific pre-briefing added viewing videos of an expert nurse describing the simulated patient's situation, background problems, assessments, and recommended priorities

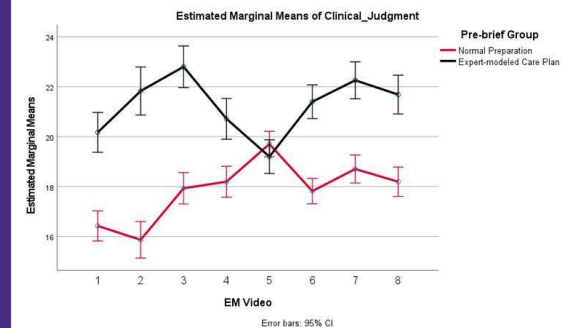
# Providing Observer-specific Pre-briefing Significantly Increases Clinical Judgment

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code for references.



## Results

- CJ outcomes were influenced by pre-briefing method and time  $F(5.47, 514.154)=20.206, p<.001, \eta^2=.177$ .
- Both pre-briefing types improved CJ, but observer-specific pre-briefing led to significantly higher scores in seven scenarios.



## Implications

- Pre-briefing made observers' helped make reflection responses more consistent. Observers also noticed more salient cues, reported improved expectations, applied more knowledge about care standards, and improved reflection skills.
- Observers need pre-briefing too!<sup>8</sup>
- Complexity can still overwhelm learners' clinical judgment

## Conclusion

Implementing observer-specific pre-briefing elevates simulation observations and promotes more consistent CJ outcomes. Aligning observers' pre-briefing with the Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice for Pre-briefing supports learners identifying salient cues, interpreting patient priorities, and anticipating patient needs— essential steps in closing the CJ gap among newly graduated nurses.