

Clinical simulation has become a valuable tool for nursing schools. Instructors are able to take students to a simulation lab and conduct safe care on manikins. It teaches students skills without the risk of harming real patients. According to Frey “Clinical simulation labs have become an important modality in the healthcare field” (2012, p. 22).

There are many pros to using simulation labs to train future nursing to include; improvement of mortality rates for patient outcomes. One challenge in nursing is learning what to do in an emergent situation. Simulation labs are a good way to see how students will respond in emergent situations and teaches them how to work codes step by step. The most important aspect of simulation lab is safety. Teaching students in a simulation lab is safer than in the actual clinical scene. Another pro of simulation lab is more clinical situations are available in the lab than in real world. For example students are able to perform tracheostomy care in the simulation lab where they may not see a tracheostomy in clinical at a facility. Another pro to simulation lab is students feel more comfortable working on manikins instead of real patients. They are able to make mistakes without causing harm and learn how to do it right the next time. It also builds students confidence and relieves stress.

Cons of using a simulation lab in the beginning is the cost. Each simulation set up can cost millions of dollars and the training involved preparing instructors can be costly as well. Another con would be is the manikins cannot mimic a real patient. Patient’s reactions are different than in a simulation lab. How patients respond to treatment and scenarios cannot be predicted in the lab.

Research shows that using simulation labs in nursing education is more of a pro than a con. According to Penn (2008), “Clinical simulation provides opportunities for students to apply

their didactic knowledge and problem solving, critical thinking, and time management skills to clinical situations" (p. 234).

Frey, M. V. (2012, November). Clinical simulation labs in the real world. *The Journal for Respiratory Care Practitioners*, 22-23. Retrieved from

<http://www.rtmagazine.com/2012/11/clinical-simulation-labs-in-the-real-world/>

Penn, B. K. (2008). *Mastering the teaching role: A guide for nurse educators*. Philadelphia, PA: F.A. Davis Company