



## Preamble

# Onward and Upward: Introducing the Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice™

**INACSL Standards Committee, Penni I. Watts, PhD, RN, CHSE-A, Kelly Rossler, PhD, RN, CHSE, Fara Bowler, DNP, ANP-C, CHSE, Carrie Miller, PhD, RN, CHSE, CNE, IBCLC, Matthew Charnetski, MS, NRP, CHSOS, CHSE, Sharon Decker, PhD, RN, FSSH, ANEF, FAAN, Margory A. Molloy, DNP, RN, CNE, CHSE, Lori Persico, PhD, RN, CHSE, Erin McMahon, CNM, EdD, FACNM, Donna McDermott, PhD, RN, CHSE, Beth Hallmark, PhD, RN, CHSE-A, ANEF**

The International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) Standards Committee and the INACSL Board of Directors (BOD) introduce the fourth edition of the Standards of Best Practice. Since originally announced in 2011, the INACSL Standards of Best Practice have guided the integration, use, and advancement of simulation-based experiences within academia, clinical practice, and research. Healthcare professionals around the globe have and continue to champion simulation; thus, allowing the Standards to flourish.

Before reflecting on the revision process, it is necessary to acknowledge how this past year has been a challenge for simulationists around the world. Although the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted healthcare practice and academia, the simulation community stepped up to the challenge with a rapid pivot to an unprecedented collaboration of resources. Through this camaraderie, we supported each other, our patients, our teams, our learners, and our frontline workers. Through a massive virtual response and a careful consideration of how to bring learners back to face-to-face simulation learning environments, we facilitated patient safety, supported frontline healthcare workers, and continued to educate our healthcare students while showcasing teamwork for healthcare professionals around the world. As we look to the future, we are excited to announce the INACSL Standards' re-envisioning and re-branding to the Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice as we

continue to engage the global and interprofessional community herein referred to as the Healthcare Simulation SOBP (HSSOBP™).

For the 2021 revision, the Standards Committee gathered to commence work in the later part of 2018 with focus placed on historical and foundational elements of the Standards of Best Practice, survey data from both INACSL membership and the simulation community, current directions within practice and research, and future recommendations noted within the 2016 Standards. In January of 2019, the INACSL Standards Committee welcomed a medical librarian and a diverse team of interprofessional healthcare professionals to serve as sub-committee members. Once the team was in place, work began by conducting an extensive literature review supported by our Medical Librarian, Jean Hillyer. Clearly emerging from both the literature and the membership survey was the need to develop two new Standards: "Professional Development" and "Prebriefing: Preparation and briefing." It is important to note that a rigorous discussion occurred regarding the creation of another new Standard about virtual simulation. After reviewing the literature and discussing with multiple stakeholders including the BOD, a decision was made that "virtual" learning was a method of simulation and the Standards would apply just as it would to the other areas of simulation methodology: manikin-based, standardized patient, skill performance, online, etc. We recognize

that the pandemic and rapidly advancing technology may have a profound effect and change this decision for future iterations of the Standards.

The process for Standards revision was not always easy, requiring constant and thoughtful debate and discussion. As an ever-evolving science, there continues to be a growth in new and different modalities, applications, changes in terminology, as well as unpredictable life changes such as a global pandemic. At some point, we had to impose a stopping point or the Standards would never be published. The end date for literature became December 2020. We had to work through the pandemic and recognize that some of the profound impacts of it will not be present in this version. At some point, we had to recognize that the committee members were also affected by the pandemic and needed to focus on their other obligations. We became a support system, a welcome touch point for each other, and an acknowledgement that simulationists continue to lead and innovate even when it's difficult.

You will see that a few Standards had minimal revisions, while others underwent significant changes. As a committee, we have spent hundreds of hours searching and reviewing the literature then debating and discussing all things related to the Standards. When we had questions or a new comment or area of feedback was provided, we returned to the literature. These Standards are based on and reflect the evidence in the literature. These documents represent the passion, blood, sweat, and tears of a dedicated team who were committed to producing their best work to benefit the simulation community.

In this iteration of the Standards, we have integrated the SSH Healthcare Simulationists Code of Ethics and have used the SSH Healthcare Simulation Dictionary as the basis for terminology. The Glossary will continue to support the HSSOBP™ and clarify terms but was significantly reduced in support of the SSH dictionary. These Standards follow standard terminology and definitions from the simulation community. Recognizing that there is some variability in terminology from center to center, profession to profession, and around the world, we have included the glossary to make these standards more accessible to individuals regardless of background, profession, language, or geographical area. The glossary helps define and demonstrate how we are using these words in the context of these Standards. Our goal is to provide this as a keystone for translation for anyone implementing these Standards.

The 2021 edition of the Standards is the collective effort of the Standards Committee and subcommittee members that represented multiple professions and international input as well as, advisory panel professional organizations, expert reviewers, INACSL Board of Directors, and a medical librarian. We want to thank them for their contributions. All participants aimed to ensure the Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice were a platform for all simulationists and represented the best practices to design, conduct, and evaluate simulation-based experiences. While the

pandemic delayed our initial release date of 2020, we are excited and know that the time is right for publication of these new healthcare focused Standards.

These new Standards were a collaborative effort, and every person participating made a valuable contribution to the final product.

The HSSOBP™ consist of the following individual Standards:

- Professional Development (NEW)
- Prebriefing: Preparation and Briefing (NEW)
- Simulation Design
- Facilitation
- The Debriefing Process
- Operations
- Outcomes and Objectives
- Professional Integrity
- Sim-Enhanced IPE
- Evaluation of Learning and Performance
- Simulation Glossary

It is important to note that these Standards are aspirational and serve as a guide. We recognize and understand that context, resources, accreditation needs, etc., may affect the implementation and attainment of the Standards, however, we hope that they provide talking points of discussion with stakeholders in your own institutions and areas of practice.

As our work continues in the simulation community, we challenge simulationists around the world to:

- Continue simulation research, ingenuity, and creativity.
- Keep publishing, presenting, and disseminating work.
- Seek best practice and excellence in simulation experiences.
- Apply the Standards and seek to integrate them into all simulation programs.

As the Standards are *living documents*, there will ALWAYS be ongoing opportunities for change and growth within them and in our community of practice. We, as a simulation community, must continue to seek excellence and quality in simulation education and practice. We look forward to the future of healthcare simulation and the journey for excellence in best practice.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INACSL Board of Directors 2021

Standards Committee: Chair, Penni I. Watts, PhD, RN, CHSE-A

Lead Professional Development Standard: Beth Hallmark, PhD, RN, CHSE-A, ANEF

Subcommittee Members:

Michelle Brown, PhD, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, SBBCM, CHSE

Dawn Taylor Peterson, PhD

Mary Fey, PhD, RN, CHSE-A, ANEF, FAAN

Sharon Decker, PhD, RN, FSSH, ANEF, FAAN

Elizabeth Wells-Beede, PhD, RN, C-EFM, CHSE

Teresa Britt, MSN, RN, CHSE-A

Lori Hardie, MSN, RNC, NPD-BC, CHSE

Cynthia Shum, DNP, MEd, RN, CHSE-A

Henrique Pierotti Arantes, MD, PhD

Matthew Charnetski, MS, NRP, CHSOS, CHSE

Catherine Morse, PhD, MSN, RN, ACNP-Ret

Lead Prebriefing: Preparation and Briefing Standard:

Donna McDermott, PhD, RN, CHSE

Subcommittee Members:

Jocelyn Ludlow, PhD, RN, CHSE, CNE, CMSRN

Elizabeth Horsley, RN, MSMS, CHSE

Colleen Meakim, MSN, RN, CHSE-A, ANEF

Lead Operations Standard: Matthew Charnetski, MS, NRP, CHSOS, CHSE

Subcommittee Members:

Melissa Jarvill, PhD, RNC-NIC, CHSE, CNE

Lead Professional Integrity Standard: Fara Bowler, DNP, ANP-C, CHSE

Subcommittee Members:

Mary Klein, PharmD, BCACP, CHSE

Amanda Wilford, MA, DipANC, RGN (Hons)

Lead Evaluation of Learning and Performance Standard: Erin McMahon, CNM, EdD, FACNM

Subcommittee Members:

Francisco A. Jimenez, PhD, CHSE

Kay Lawrence, PhD, RN, CHSE

Joyce Victor, PhD, RN, NPD-BC, CHSE-A

Lead Debriefing Process Standard: Sharon Decker, PhD, RN, FSSH, ANEF, FAAN

Subcommittee Members:

Scott B. Crawford, MD, FACEP, FSSH, CHSOS

Randy M. Gordon, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE

Guillaume Alinier, PhD, PgCert, MPhys, SFHEA, NTF

Deborah Jenkins, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, CCRN-K

Cheryl Wilson, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, CNE, CHSE

Lead Outcomes and Objectives Standard: Carrie Miller, PhD, RN, CHSE, CNE, IBCLC

Subcommittee Members:

Cathy Deckers, EdD, RN, CNE, CHSE

Meghan Jones, MSN, RN, CHSE

Elizabeth Wells-Beede, PhD, RN, C-EFM, CHSE

Elisabeth McGee, PhD, DPT, MOT, PT, OTR/L, MTC, CHT, CHSE

Lead Facilitation Standard: Lori Persico, PhD, RN, CHSE

Subcommittee Members:

April Belle, DNP, RN, CCNS

Heiddy DiGregorio, PhD, APRN, PCNS-BC, CHSE, CNE

Barbara Wilson-Keates, PhD, RN, CHSE

Chasity M. Shelton, BS, PharmD, FCCP, BPCS, BCPPS

Lead Simulation Design Standard: Penni I. Watts, PhD, RN, CHSE-A

Subcommittee Members:

Donna McDermott, PhD, RN, CHSE

Pooja A. Nawathe, MD, FAAP, FCCM, CHSE-A, CHSOS

Guillaume Alinier, PhD, MPhys, PgCert, SFHEA, NTF

Matthew Charnetski, MS, NRP, CHSOS, CHSE

Jocelyn Ludlow, PhD, RN, CHSE, CNE, CMSRN

Colleen Meakim, MSN, RN, CHSE-A, ANEF

Elizabeth Horsley, RN, MSMS, CHSE

Lead Simulation-Enhanced Interprofessional Education Standard: Kelly Rossler, PhD, RN, CHSE

Subcommittee Members:

Neena Xavier, MD, FACE

Margory A. Molloy, DNP, RN, CNE, CHSE

Amy M. Pastva, PT, MA, PhD, CHSE

Michelle Brown, PhD, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, SBBCM, CHSE

Lead Glossary: Margory A. Molloy, DNP, RN, CNE, CHSE

Subcommittee Members:

Jo Holt, DNP, APRN, CCNS, CEN, CHSE, CSSBB

Matthew Charnetski, MS, NRP, CHSOS, CHSE

Kelly Rossler, PhD, RN, CHSE

### **Medical Librarian**

Jean Hillyer, MAE, MLS, AHIP-S

### **Expert Reviewers**

Jeff Camack, DNP, RN, CHSE

Suzanne Campbell, PhD, RN, IBCLC

Kristina Thomas Dreifuerst, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN

Carol Fowler Durham, EdD, RN, ANEF, FSSH, FAAN

Laura Gonzalez, PhD, APRN, CNE, CHSE-A, ANEF, FAAN

Teresa Gore, PhD, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CHSE-A, FSSH, FAAN

Leslie Graham, RN, MN, CNCC, CHSE

Nicole Harder, PhD, RN, CHSE, CCSNE

Val Howard, EdD, MSN, RN  
 Kim Leighton, PhD, RN, CHSOS, CHSE, ANEF,  
 FSSH, FAAN

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