

# SimChart

# Best Practices



SimChart is an electronic health record designed specifically as a learning tool for nursing students. This educational EHR works seamlessly with all parts of your nursing curriculum – from activities in the classroom to the simulation lab to the clinical learning environment-giving you a realistic, yet controlled way to help students master electronic charting and demonstrate clinical reasoning in patient care.

## Understanding SimChart

SimChart is comprised of three components:

- **My Clinicals-** A blank EHR that can be used across the curriculum in all educational environments
- **Case Studies**
  - Challenger Case Studies help students learn the basics of navigating an EHR and give them practice documenting fundamental concepts of nursing.
  - Unfolding Case Studies present students with more complex patient scenarios, providing them with opportunities to make clinical decisions and practice clinical judgment. Some patients have multiple scenarios that increase in acuity.
- **Simulations-** are designed to provide a robust patient scenario with instructor resources to help facilitate student learning both in and outside of the simulation lab.

## Implementation Ideas for all Education Environments (classroom, clinical, lab)

**My Clinicals** - Use these blank EHRs to replace passive classroom delivery with engaging activities.

- When teaching Tissue integrity, select a picture or video from Clinical Key to project in the classroom. Have the students take 5 minutes to document the wound correctly.
- When teaching Vital Signs, have students think about the importance of always using the correct sized BP cuff; have them document what they think the BP would be on an obese patient using a regular adult cuff, and a small geriatric patient using a large adult cuff.
- Use the SBAR to teach effective interdisciplinary communication.
- When teaching specific assessment tools, such as Glasgow Coma Scale, AIMS assessment, Morse Fall Risk assessment, etc. have students complete these tools in the My Clinical for an authentic learning experience.
- When teaching disease processes or exemplars, instead of giving students a slide with clinical manifestations, have students document the “expected” assessment findings in SimChart.
- Documentation of care provided in the clinical setting.
- Convert the usual “clinical paperwork” to a digital SimChart assignment.
- Have a “Skills Lab Chart” or “Health Assessment Chart” in which they document all of the skills they perform in the lab.



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**Case Studies** – Select a Case Study relevant to the topic. Teach students how to read charts, plan and prioritize care.

## **Beginning students**

- In learning pairs or groups explore the History and Physical section and identify the 3 most important pieces of information needed to plan care for this patient. Think, Pair, and Share
- Role model appropriate documentation for a patient during class time. Open a Case Study and work together to complete the documentation, then review with students the expected charting compared to the group charting.

## **Intermediate students:** Prioritize Care!

- What are the top 3 assessments to perform on this patient?
- What are the top 3 nursing interventions for this patient?
- Look at the Orders, prioritize which orders should be completed first and provide rationale.
- Look at the MAR, prioritize which medications to administer first and provide rationale.

## **Advanced students:** Prioritize Care!

- Give students 20 minutes to look at 3 patient charts, similar to what they would do in clinical practice after receiving report. Next, have students spend additional time answering the questions below and then facilitate class discussion.
  - Prioritize the order in which they would see these patients and provide rationale.
  - Which provider orders would they complete first?
  - Which medications would they administer first?
  - What are the top 3 assessments and interventions for each patient?

## **At any stage in the curriculum:**

- SimChart Case Studies can be used in clinical post-conference. Select a Case Study that is pertinent to the clinical setting (especially in a specialty area), and work through it together in the clinical group.
- Assign Case Studies to be completed during any downtime on lab or simulation day
- Build a virtual patient care experience using a SimChart Case. Have students treat the case study patient as their clinical patient of the day. They can complete the case study, look up the patient's medications and lab values, create care plans, teaching plans, and more. ClinicalKey provides an excellent evidence-based resource for students to use for these activities and is available from any SimChart health record.



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**Simulations** – Consider utilizing the INACSL Simulation Design Standards of Best Practice found in Elsevier's Journal, *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, Volume 58, September 2021, pages 1-4

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1876139921000931?via%3Dihub>

- Use these patients in the Sim Lab to provide simulated patient care experiences. Facilitator packets provide faculty with resources to set up and run the simulation
- These can also be a great option for having a patient in the classroom. These same activities used for Case Studies can be done with the Simulations as well.