Course-Based SimChart
Best Practices

Understanding Course-Based SimChart

Course-Based SimChart aligns with Sherpath at the course level to provide you with an easy-to-use, web-based, simulated electronic health record (EHR) system. It comes complete with case studies that are specifically mapped to the text. The user-friendly EHR provides a realistic way to help students master electronic charting and to practice and demonstrate clinical judgment skills. Course-Based SimChart can also help take your classroom from a passive to an active and engaging learning environment.

Course-Based SimChart is comprised of two components: Case Studies and the EHR.

- **Case Studies:** These patient scenarios provide an opportunity for students to practice clinical judgment, develop key skills in documenting, monitoring, and analyzing patient data, and build confidence in navigating a patient chart. Cases reinforce corresponding course content and include both documentation activities and quizzing.

- **Empty EHR:** A simplified blank chart that can be used for documentation of care or as a learning tool in class.

Implementation Strategies for All Educational Environments

Using Case Studies in the Classroom, Clinical, and Lab

Each course includes **case studies** that align with appropriate Sherpath chapters as well as pertinent nursing concepts.

Use as an Assignment
- Assign a case study to help students apply what they've learned.

- Use the case study's quiz as a grade. Consider reviewing the case in class to provide insight into relevant documentation or clarity for difficult concepts.

Use as a Teaching Activity
- Work through the case and role model appropriate documentation with the class.

- Use this time to make connections between theory and clinical practice and to help students navigate the patient chart.

Use Outside the Classroom
- Consider assigning a case study to be completed as part of lab or simulation as a way to connect all domains of learning.

Use for a Group Activity
- Have students work in learning pairs or small groups to complete the case study during class.

- Consider adding some additional considerations for students, such as the priority nursing assessments or interventions for the patient, important patient data necessary to plan care for the patient or expected provider orders.

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Using EHRs in the Classroom, Clinical, or Lab

Use these blank charts to replace passive classroom delivery with **engaging activities**. For example:

- **When teaching disease processes or exemplars**, instead of giving students a slide with clinical manifestations, have students document the "expected" assessment findings in SimChart.

- **When teaching Tissue integrity**, select a picture or video to show the class. Have the students practice documenting 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 in conjunction with a patient scenario,** such as those from the text or a HESI Case Study. Have students work with a partner or in a small group to complete the patient case and use an Empty EHR to document pertinent patient data.

- **Have students complete and document a teaching plan** in the Empty EHR for a case study patient or course patient of the day.