SIM OP: 90.025 Universal Precautions Related to Food and Drink

PURPOSE: This TTUHSC Simulation Program policy is that no food or drinks are allowed in patient care areas, i.e. standardized patient exam rooms, etc. Food and drink may be allowed in conference and debrief rooms after obtaining permission.

REVIEW: The Simulation Program OP will be reviewed September 1 of each even-numbered year by the Executive Director of the Centers.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

1.0 Policy

With the exception of the standardized patient lounge and designated refreshment locations for each center, no food or drinks are allowed in patient care areas, such as the standardized patient exam rooms, acute and primary care areas, and any area where a high fidelity simulator is in use.

Special permission for food and drink for may be obtained from the Simulation Program Executive Director or the simulation center’s director.

Individuals with identified medical conditions that require exceptions should discuss this with their faculty/instructors and the center’s personnel. Faculty/facilitators who are presenting over an extended of time may have a drink at their podium or in the control room.

2.0 Procedure

Simulation-based experiences are designed to prepare and require individuals to demonstrate professional behavior in the healthcare environment. Therefore, individuals are requested to adhere to the following when activities are being conducted in patient care rooms or areas with high fidelity equipment:

- Food and drinks are not allowed. This includes gum and candy.
- Drinks are not allowed at the bedside.
- The exceptions to this policy are:
- the standardized patient lounge
- the simulation center’s designated refreshment location. Designated refreshment stations vary by campus and are at the discretion of the center’s director.
- faculty/facilitators presenting over an extended period of time may have water in a spill proof container that is kept at the podium, in debrief rooms, or control rooms.
- Students may keep their drink in a spill proof container and tucked away in their backpacks or in designated refreshment location.
- If other exceptions are needed or food and drink is requested to be available in a debrief or conference room, this request must be made to the Simulation Program Executive Director or simulation center’s director prior to the event.

- If a simulation center personnel sees a customer with food or drinks in a non-designated area, the simulation center personnel will notify the simulation center director. The simulation center director will address the concern with the customer in a respectful and professional manner.

SD/MR/SB
Adopted: 04/2012
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