

BEHIND THE MASK



Physiotherapy students at the University of Canberra have been discovering that not all classroom simulation is about sophisticated software. In 2013, the masters students have been meeting 'Joyce Fullerton', a 75-year-old woman with an extensive medical history. Joyce is played by lecturer Bernadette Bissett, using MASK-ED simulation.

High-fidelity mask-based simulation, first pioneered by Professor Kerry Reid-Searl at Central Queensland University, allows students to interact with a lifelike character and practice important skills like history-taking and treatment delivery. Because the classroom teacher is 'hidden' behind the realistic silicone mask, the students' interactions with the character can be guided to optimise learning moments.

Students have responded very positively to Joyce, and appreciated the opportunity to practise their physiotherapy skills with her (including mobilisation with multiple attachments, or chest treatment for a community-acquired pneumonia). Student comments include:

'It was quite different from doing cases on paper. It shows the mistakes you can easily make with a patient, and especially when something does not go according to plan.'

'Joyce makes the theory real. She is a little intimidating but interacting with her helps to reinforce and cement our knowledge.'

'It makes it more practical, immediate, "in your face", to have to deal with simulated reactions that we as students may not know about . . . very useful and guiding.'

An important element of the MASK-ED approach is the debrief session, when the educator removes the mask and discusses the experience with the students. Every session is different, but this spontaneous approach makes for high engagement and memorable learning.

In the cardiorespiratory subject there are limitations to MASK-ED simulation. For example, the educator can't simulate abnormal breath sounds on auscultation, or palpable fremitus that you would normally feel in the context of high secretion loads. However, the students have benefited from the practice of handling and communicating with an older, unwell 'patient' and Joyce is always keen to check whether they have washed their hands or whether the bed is at the right height. Joyce is always a student-friendly character who wants to bring out the best in the students and steer their learning in the right direction.

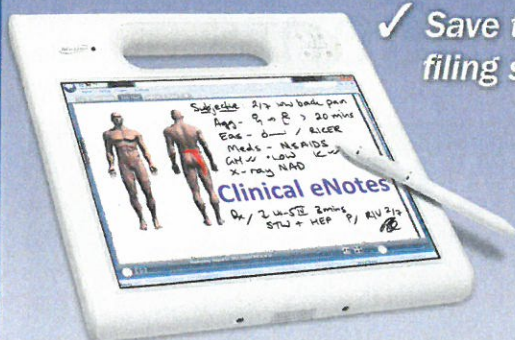
Classroom simulation has many possibilities, but in Canberra at least, Joyce remains a much-valued member of the teaching team.

eNoteFile Clinical Software

✓ **Handwrite and draw onto body charts**

✓ **Use your own templates and forms**

✓ **Save time and filing space**



ORGANISE A DEMONSTRATION AND CUSTOMISED TRIAL

**FREE CALL
1800 080 473**

www.enotefile.com