

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Hospitals Insurance Company (HIC) sponsored Anesthesia Simulation Initiative

## **1. What is the HIC Anesthesia Simulation Initiative?**

The American Society of Anesthesiologist, the American Board of Anesthesiology, and the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education are endorsing the importance of simulation-based education as valuable for training and maintaining life long competence. HIC, the malpractice insurer for Beth Israel, Maimonides, Montefiore and Mount Sinai Medical Centers and their physicians, shares this belief and is sponsoring an Anesthesia Simulation Initiative for all Faculty and CRNAs from these institutions. The course will provide anesthesia caregivers from these hospitals the opportunity to participate in simulation-based education once every two years, to coincide with their re-credentialing cycle. At the time of re-credentialing each provider will have to provide written confirmation of their participation either in this program, or a certified MOCA program (see below) when presenting re-credentialing documentation to their department Chair.

## **2. Why do I have to attend a simulation course?**

Simulation Training has become an integral part of anesthesiology training and maintenance of competency for anesthesia providers. The ACGME requires yearly simulation as part of anesthesiology residency training. Therefore, by 2014 to qualify for primary board certification an ABA diplomate will have had to participate in at least three simulation-based educational experiences. Since 2010, The ABA recognizes simulation training as an innovative approach to teach clinical care and teamwork skills in managing critical events and included it in the Part IV Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology (MOCA®) requirements.

In an effort to improve patient safety, HIC has started an Anesthesia Simulation Initiative that will provide simulation-based education for each anesthesia provider once every two years. It is hoped that Departments of Anesthesiology at HIC medical centers will take the lead in making simulation a part of re-credentialing criteria and that this will become the standard across all clinical departments in our hospitals.

## **3. Why simulation?**

There are relatively few learning forms that help anesthesiologists maintain clinical competence in ways that impact patient care. Many simulation programs now deliver this form of learning. There is a belief that simulation will be valuable for anesthesiologists and CRNAs to refresh and assess their life - saving skills.

## **4. How much will the HIC sponsored course cost me?**

The tuition for the course will be paid by HIC. There will be no out of pocket expenses for the participants.

## **5. Why do I have to go to Mount Sinai's HELPS Center to receive my simulation course?**

To ensure that the initiative is of a high - quality learning experience that meets the same standards for simulation education requirements determined by the ABA, ASA and MOCA Part IV, all participants will attend the course at the HELPS center at Mount Sinai. The ASA has established standards and endorse simulation centers that meet those standards. The HELP center is currently the only ASA endorsed program in our four hospitals. Since all of the other HIC medical centers have simulation programs, it is hoped that

over time they will be able to adopt the standards set by the HELPS center so that the program can be offered locally in the future.

**6. What will the course look like?**

- A three hour course
- Active participation in realistic simulation scenarios
- Post - scenario peer debriefing
- Management of difficult patient - care scenarios
- An emphasis on teamwork and communication
- All participants have at least one opportunity to be the primary anesthesiologist - in - charge (i.e., the “hot seat”)

**7. After I go to the course, how will I get my HIC Anesthesia Initiative credit?**

To receive credit, the anesthesia provider must actively participate in the entire simulation course and complete a course evaluation and Practice Improvement Plan within 7 days of the course conclusion. Beginning 30 days after your course, you will receive three monthly reminders to complete a web - based attestation that includes a description of your Practice Improvement Plan.

**8. Will I get CME credit?**

To keep costs down CME credit will not be awarded.

**9. What can I expect to experience during the simulation course at the HELPS Center?**

The simulation course will be given at the ASA - endorsed HELPS simulation program at Mount Sinai Department of Anesthesiology. Course faculty must include individuals with demonstrated expertise in simulation - based education. The number of students is limited, with a high instructor - to - student ratio so that each participant can have a high - quality experience. Courses are designed to realistically recreate challenging clinical cases to allow participants to problem - solve in a manner that is similar to actual clinical experience. Faculty facilitates after - action debriefing, calling on all participants to contribute to the discussion about what went well and what could be improved.

**10. Do simulation - based courses focus on specific topics or clinical problems?**

Topics that may be substantively addressed include:

1. Management of significant hemodynamic instability
2. Management of significant hypoxemia from any cause, including difficult airway management
3. Principles and practice of teamwork and communication

**11. I only do subspecialty anesthesia. Will the course be relevant to my practice?**

Yes, the course is designed to have application for all anesthesia providers

**12. What is instructor - facilitated peer debriefing?**

This is a process wherein a trained instructor/facilitator assists the participants as they review and reflect upon their own performances. It focuses on the learner and is designed to elicit thoughtful discussion after

the simulation. This important element of the simulation allows the learner to sort out events, interpret what happened and develop strategies to improve performance.

**13. Will my performance during the course be evaluated?**

Your performance during the course will be reviewed during the instructor-facilitated peer debriefing.

However, you will not receive a formal, written evaluation of your performance and no written or oral evaluations will be transmitted to either your employer or to HIC. This is not a pass/fail exam, but an experiential *learning* opportunity that is designed to stimulate practice improvement.

**14. Can you assess my performance individually?**

A valid assessment would require observation of performance of eight or more scenarios. Performance on several scenarios does not provide sufficient information.

**15. Will my performance be video recorded? How will these videos be used?**

Most simulation sessions are recorded to review performance during the instructor - facilitated debriefing.

**16. I'm anxious about performing cases in front of my peers. How will this be handled?**

Performance anxiety is normal, and instructors are aware of and sensitive to it. This important concern will be acknowledged and addressed at the beginning of each course. It is crucial that all participants agree to maintain the confidentiality of what happens at the simulation center.

**17. Will my peers discuss my performance with others after the course?**

Each participant will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement so that events and debriefings will not be discussed outside of the simulation experience.

**18. Mannequins are plastic, not real people. How can this be realistic?**

There are limitations in the technology. However, the mannequins, in conjunction with an effective story and other participants, can still provide an emotive experience.

**19. Will what I learn in the course have any effect on my care of real patients?**

The course is designed to be relevant to the challenges of real patient care. It is certainly our hope that what you learn will help you to optimize your skills and behaviors. The HELPS Center simulation program has demonstrated their ability to teach effectively using mannequin - based simulation.

**20. How will I interact with the other course trainees?**

Some parts of the course involve presentation to and discussion by the entire group of participants. A typical course has four to five participants going through the simulations (some might have more participants, but more than one room for simulation). The course contains several case scenarios. Participants rotate through different roles in the scenarios (such as the primary anesthesiologist, and one or more anesthesiologists who might respond if the primary person calls for help). Other roles in the rotation

might involve observing a scenario in real - time on video, or acting as the scrub tech. All participants from all the different roles will undergo a facilitated debriefing together so that all viewpoints can be heard.

**21. Will I handle any cases by myself (as opposed to working in groups)?**

Each participant has at least one scenario in which they are the primary anesthesiologist (sometimes described as “being in the hot seat”). That person may start the case from scratch, or may take it over from a preceding anesthesiologist (who may be played by an instructor). As in real cases, the primary anesthesiologist may call for help at any time, but it may take a while for help to be mobilized. The primary anesthesiologist and any helpers are expected to manage the clinical situation as they would in a real case, working collectively to optimize the outcome for the patient.

**22. How long does the course last?**

The course will be three hours.

**23. When will the course be offered, will there be weekend options?**

The course will be offered to 5-7 participants on weekday evenings from 5-8 PM and weekends. Saturday and Sundays courses will be offered from 8-11AM and 12-3PM

**24. I will likely be working during the day of the course, how will I be able to attend?**

Your Chair is in support of this initiative and they appreciate that you will need to be relieved early enough in the day to make sure you arrive at Mount Sinai in time for the course. Your travel expenses will be reimbursed. Please keep tolls, parking, and taxi receipts.

**25. Will there be meal or other breaks?**

Appropriate meals will be provided.

**26. Is there anything I can do to prepare for my simulation course?**

Since the course will focus on hemodynamic events, hypoxemic crises and teamwork skills, course participants may wish to review these topics in advance.

**27. How do I sign up for a simulation course?**

There is an online registration available on the HELPS Center website, the link is below:

<http://msmc.affinitymembers.net/simulator/main.html>

**28. Where is the Mount Sinai Department of Anesthesiology’s HELPS Center and is there parking available?**

The Mount Sinai School of Medicine Department of Anesthesiology HELPS (**H**uman **E**mulation, **E**ducation, and **E**valuation Lab for Patient Safety and Professional Study) Center is located in conference room KCC 8-04, on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Klingsenstein Clinical Center, located at 1450 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10029. The cross street of this address corresponds approximately to 99<sup>th</sup> street, and the entrance can be easily identified by the blue awning.

Convenient parking is available at the parking garage on 99<sup>th</sup> street between Madison and Park Avenues (one would make a right turn onto 99<sup>th</sup> street from Madison Avenue, and the parking garage is on the right approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way down the block).

**29. I have to attend a simulation course to satisfy my MOCA part IV requirements; will participating in this course satisfy my HIC sponsored simulation requirement?**

Yes, attending a MOCA part four-simulation course will satisfy the HIC requirement during one of the two-year HIC cycles. After two years the participant will then be required to attend the HIC simulation course. The cost of attending a MOCA course will be offset by the cost of the HIC course if the MOCA course is used to satisfy the HIC sponsored simulation requirement.

**30. Do I have to attend Mount Sinai's HELP Center MOCA simulation course to receive HIC credit?**

No, you can go to any of the ASA endorsed simulation programs (Simulation Education Network) for your MOCA course and receive credit. As noted above, you must demonstrate that you successfully completed the MOCA requirements to your department Chair to be re-credentialed.

You can obtain further information about available simulation MOCA courses on the ASA website:

<http://www.asahq.org/For-Members/Education-and-Events/Simulation-Education.aspx>

(Modified from Frequently Asked Questions about Simulation Courses Offered for Part IV MOCA® Credit  
<http://www.asahq.org/For-Members/Education-and-Events/Simulation-Education/SEN-FAQs.aspx>)