



## Preamble

# Extra! Extra! Read All About It! INACSL Standards of Best Practice: Simulation<sup>SM</sup> Have Been Revised!



The INACSL Board of Directors and the INACSL Standards Committee are pleased to announce the third edition of the INACSL Standards of Best Practice<sup>SM</sup>. The INACSL Standards inaugural publication was in 2011 under the leadership of President Dr. Kim Leighton (2009–2011) and the first revision completed in 2013 during President Dr. Valerie Howard's term (2011–2013). The present revision captures the leadership of President Dr. Carol Fowler Durham (2013–2015) and current President Dr. Teresa Gore (2015–2017). The 2016 edition is the work of numerous INACSL Board of Directors, committee members, and organizations to ensure that the INACSL Standards of Best Practice provide educators, clinicians, and researchers with best practices to design, conduct, and evaluate simulation-based experiences.

The need for additions and revisions to the INACSL Standards of Best Practice change as the science of simulation continues to evolve. The INACSL Standards of Best Practice: Simulation are reviewed and revised in a three-year cycle to have common criteria and guidelines for simulation-based practice. New Standards arise from queries to the simulation community based on needs and current practice.

As you review the revised INACSL Standards, you will find that they appear in a new format, are no longer numbered, and have different titles. These changes evolved from a call to 20 international, interprofessional organizations for feedback on the 2013 INACSL Standards based on current literature and practice. From their feedback, the 2015 INACSL Standards Committee and Subcommittees identified practice gaps, content overlap, and areas to update based on a review of literature and the external reviewer feedback.

One of the first steps in the revision process was to address the structure of the 2013 Standard of Best Practice: Simulation format based on comments from external

reviewers. The *Standard* statement continues to be one to two concise sentences. The Rationale and Outcome sections have been combined into *Background* and includes supporting literature for the Standard and consequences that may occur if the Standard is not followed. *Criteria* was maintained, and the committees focused on factors such as attributes, characteristics, and/or parameters necessary to meet the Standard. The Guideline and Guideline Statements revised to be *Required Elements* necessary to meet Criteria. Each Standard includes *Cited References*, *Bibliography*, the *Original INACSL Standard*, *Subsequent INACSL Standard*, and *Key Words*.

The next step was for the Standards Committee to review the content of the 2013 Standards and incorporate the latest evidence of best practice. Based on feedback from external reviewers, line-by-line analysis, content overlap, gaps, literature updates, and streamlining of the Standards occurred. Early on, the Standards Committee decided to remove numbering of the Standards to eliminate the possibility of interpreting a Standard hierarchy. There was a concerted effort to link the Standards to reinforce that no Standard stands alone. A synopsis of changes that occurred is as follows:

- \* Standard I: Terminology revised to be a *Simulation Glossary*. The terms and definitions focus solely on terminology found in the Standards.
- \* Standard II: Professional Integrity of Participants expanded to include integrity of all involved with simulation and retitled *Professional Integrity*.
- \* Standard III: Objectives more clearly addresses outcomes. The *Outcomes and Objectives* Standard incorporates the acronym SMART (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic, and Time related) to develop objectives and achieve outcomes.
- \* Standard IV: *Facilitation* has no change in the title and content expanded.

- \* Standard V: Facilitator has been eliminated, and content from this Standard is now included in the revised Participant Integrity and Facilitation Standards.
- \* Standard VI: Participant Assessment and Evaluation retitled *Participant Evaluation* and focuses on formative, summative, and high-stake evaluation.
- \* Standard VII: The Debriefing Process entitled *Debriefing* and includes examples of debriefing frameworks.
- \* Standard VIII: *Simulation-Enhanced Interprofessional Education* reformatted into the new template.
- \* Standard IX: *Simulation Design* reformatted into the new template.

At the beginning of each Standard is the statement “As the science of simulation continues to evolve, so does the need for additions and revisions to the INACSL Standards of Best Practice: Simulation. Therefore, the INACSL Standards of Best Practice: Simulation are living documents.” In the near future, there will be two new standards published: one related to simulation operations and the other will focus on simulated patients. The Standards Committee is in the process of developing an Operations

Manual to guide the revision process. Future work for the Standards Committee is to harmonize the INACSL’s *Simulation Glossary* with the Society for Simulation in Healthcare’s project *Healthcare Simulation Dictionary* (Lopreiato et al., 2016). This will provide health care simulationists with one document for terms and definitions. Preliminary collaboration on terms and definitions has begun.

In closing, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as the chair of INACSL Standards Committee and work with such dedicated, focused, and scholarly individuals throughout the entire revision process. Current practice and evidence will continue to guide the changes for future revisions and development of Standards. Best wishes to all as you continue with your *simulating* journey.

## Reference

- Lopreiato, J. O., Downing, D., Gammon, W., Lioce, L., Sittner, B., Slot, V., Spain, A. E., & Terminology & Concepts Working Group. (Eds.). (2016). *Healthcare Simulation Dictionary*. Retrieved October 31, 2016, from <http://www.ssih.org/dictionary>.