

Prebriefing Essential Components

Prebriefing prepares learners for the simulation by outlining the session flow, expectations, evaluation methods, and participant roles while establishing professionalism, confidentiality, and psychological safety. It also introduces the fiction contract, reviews equipment and logistics, and ensures learners understand how to engage realistically within the simulation environment.

Scenario Overview

- Length & flow of the session
- Agenda (Prebrief → Scenario → Debrief)
- How evaluation will occur

Evaluation Plan

- Explain grading criteria or learning expectations
- Differentiate high-stakes vs. low-stakes simulations

Fiction Contract

- Acknowledge simulation limits
- Encourage students to treat the scenario as real

Ground Rules

- Professionalism, respect, teamwork
- Confidentiality: "What happens in sim stays in sim."
- Emphasize seriousness/value of the session

Roles & Expectations

- Define roles (primary nurse, observer, family member, etc.)
- Rotate roles across scenarios for fairness
- Clarify expectations: what students should do/know, what is not included

Equipment & Logistics

- Review environment, manikin capabilities, tech tools (EHR, call system)
- Clarify if sessions will be recorded and how recordings are used
- Introduce special formats (multi-patient or unfolding sims, observation groups)