The Guide on this webpage is the first in a series of similar tools related to the management and operation of a simulation facility being used for healthcare education and training. These tools are being developed by SSH members for use by other SSH members under a program started in the SSH Technology and Standards (T&S) Committee. Other committees may also produce similar products.

Although there is some research related to various aspects of using simulators or simulation in healthcare training facilities, the number of variables and very broad range of applications and settings has generally limited efforts to do meta-studies leading to evidence of widely recognized practices which should be considered Standard Practices. The problem is further exacerbated by the funding and time required for traditional research methods, the nature of applied cognitive research which can rarely be replicated even in the same setting, and the speed at which new simulation technology becomes available to the healthcare community. Accordingly, the ideas offered in these guides should not be considered as standards. This is not to say that professional bodies have not captured valuable insights on which some criterion for certifying individuals and/or organizations that have demonstrated the use of good practices and are worthy of recognition as certified practitioners or accredited facilities. In cases where the contents of this guide conflict with any organization’s established criterion for individual certification or facility accreditation, certifying or accrediting body’s criterion prevail for their accreditation or certification purposes.

The T&S Committee recognized that SSH members constitute a critical mass of healthcare education and simulation technology professionals who actually managed the use of healthcare simulation methods with increasing effectiveness and frequency. These members learn useful techniques and develop methods/practices that support their local organization’s objectives to varying degrees and which are consistent with what piers would judge to be good practices. Accordingly, the Committee has initiated this effort to systemically capture this experience in topical Guides written by teams of members for use within the community in general.

THE GUIDELINES

The content in SSH Guides are not written with the intent of seeking compliance nor as recommended practices in all settings. They are compiled based on the recent experience and best efforts of people within the community as a means of sharing their experience with others. In general guidelines for any dynamic merging community of practice are fairly short lived. As new practices are tried and shown to be more effective and or have broader application, they will need to be added to the guides and past practice that they supplant will need to be retired. Therefore these Guides are being made available with every expectations that the will change over time based on new experiences and ACTIVE FEEDBACK from the community members who utilize them. Accordingly, each Guide includes a Version identifier.
and an EXPIRATION DATE. In most cases a Guide Version will expire approximately two years from release. Although Guides may remain available, after expiration they should be considered with increasing caution until an updated version is made available. It is expected that over time some Guides may become fairly stable and may be considered for incorporation into future standards as the community matures.

USER RESPONSIBILITY

These Guides are developed by Society Members primarily for Society Members. Community members, and particularly those who use the guides, are EXPECTED to provide feedback to the Committee that will attempt to integrate suggestions including the removal of material that does not work well in other settings and the addition of material from new contributors. The Committee anticipated active solicitation of members who access the Guides to obtain feedback if it is not spontaneously offered. Please use these Guides responsibly. Every situation is different. “Best Practices” in one setting or in some recognizable very similar group of settings can be very bad practices in other situations or settings. Each user must consider the material in these Guides in the context of their own unique situation. Although the experience of others in the community may be invaluable to other members, it will most likely require adaptation rather than adoption. Users or these Guides maintain sole responsibility for their decisions and work within their particular setting.

Note: Although these document are informal, they should be properly cited if being quoted in other documents or presentations.