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PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT
Boston Children's Hospital Simulation Center, Boston



Sim Lab 1 is a multipurpose conference debriefing room that doubles as a training space and exam room with glass walls and views of Boston's Longwood Medical Area.

ANTON GRASSL



CENTER STAGE

*Boston Children's Hospital Simulation Center,
Boston, opened May 2016*

SINCE 2001, PATIENT care teams at Boston Children's Hospital have used simulation to rehearse for surgical procedures and train caregivers. The practices became vital for staff preparation, but growth in use over the years resulted in a collection of mobile carts and equipment stashed in every available space.

The new Simulation Center at Boston Children's, opened in May, accommodates the advancement of the simulator program (SIMPeds) and provides a 5,300-square-foot dedicated space that supports simulation practices and technology. The center, designed by Lavallee Brensinger Architects (Boston) and built by construction manager Bond (Everett, Mass.), creates a flexible set for rehearsing even the most complex procedures.

One of the challenges faced when creating a hospital-based simulation facility is lack of available space. The solution at Boston Children's is a multipurpose, flexible design that allows each simulation lab to replicate two to three different settings within one area. Three sim labs can be easily converted to adapt to several training scenarios: acute care, outpatient services, home care, and others. Enhancing these experiences is a "backstage" control center where technicians oversee the functions of the center's lighting, sound, simulated patient manikins, and specific case scenarios.

The center promotes multiroom and multidisciplinary training within and between simulated departments. It includes a skills training lab, fully equipped operating room, ICU, trauma bay, ambulatory exam room, nursery, child's bedroom, and nurse's support alcove.

In addition to medical team training, the center will serve as a resource for families with children needing specialized care at home. The nursery and child's bedroom can be configured to train family members in using medical equipment and providing the hands-on care a child needs following discharge.



PHOTO TOUR



In Sim Lab 1, all clinical equipment can be hidden and furniture overlays added to replicate a child's bedroom or create a sleep lab simulation. This setup is often used to help families and children learn how to use medical equipment and to execute rehabilitation at home following hospitalization.

The backstage control center runs all simulations in the three labs, including patient voices, pumping fluids into the simulated patients, and changing patient vital signs. Monitoring is done via cameras rather than using one-way glass windows, which can distract the team. ☞



MORE ONLINE: To see more photos of Boston Children's Hospital Simulation Center and a video about the remarkably lifelike anatomical models created for the center, go to HCDmagazine.com/boston-sim-center.