The PEARLS Healthcare Debriefing Tool

Healthcare debriefings are facilitated conversations following a clinical or simulated event that aim to improve future clinical practice.1 Debriefings should contribute to a safe learning environment,2 actively engage participants, and focus on learning and improvement. The various approaches to healthcare debriefing may confuse educators. The PEARLS (Promoting Excellence And Reflective Learning in Simulation)3 framework addresses this problem by integrating three common educational strategies: learner self-assessment, focused facilitation (including advocacy-inquiry4), and providing information or direct feedback/teaching.

We sought to make this framework more accessible by developing a two-sided PEARLS Healthcare Debriefing Tool that serves as a cognitive aid and supports educator training.5

The front addresses each debriefing phase, identifying associated objectives and tasks and providing sample phrases and questions.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Sample Phrases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Setting the Scene</td>
<td>Create a safe context for learning</td>
<td>“Let’s spend X minutes debriefing. Our goal is to improve how we work together and care for our patients.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reactions</td>
<td>Explore feelings</td>
<td>Solicit initial reactions &amp; emotions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Clarify facts</td>
<td>Develop shared understanding of case</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>Explore variety of performance domains</td>
<td>See backbone of card for more details</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application/Summary</td>
<td>Identify take-aways</td>
<td>Learner centered</td>
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<td>Instructor centered</td>
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The Analysis Phase

The analysis phase can be used to explore a variety of performance domains:

- Decision Making
- Technical Skills
- Communication
- Resource Utilization
- Leadership
- Situational Awareness
- Teamwork

The PEARLS Healthcare Debriefing Tool helps educators adapt their debriefing for a variety of goals, including skills improvement and team training. The tool supports educator training and serves as a cognitive aid which integrates debriefing strategies during healthcare debriefings.

References:

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