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THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Department for Educational Development

**STANDARDIZED PATIENT USER
GUIDELINES**

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Introduction

The Standardized Patient (SP) Bank has been established by the [Department for Educational Development \(DED\), Aga Khan University \(AKU\)](#) for teaching, learning and assessment in the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS). Currently the SP Bank at AKU has **100 registered simulated patients** and **5 real patients**.

This SP Bank strengthens the curriculum by introducing the students to clinical and communication skills from the very beginning of the curriculum. The novice students needed a safe environment to learn, make mistakes and practice these skills, before they apply these skills on real, sick patients. The SPs give feedbacks to the students on their performance thus help in boosting their confidence. The use of SPs is very convenient since it provides the cases according to educational needs at the time and place they are needed.



The SP Bank included healthy people, actual patients with chronic but stable health problems as well actors who are trained by the clinical faculty to act out situations in a consistent manner according to the need of the programme and demands of educational experience.

Mission: Our mission is to support and improve the use of the standardized patients within the framework of medical education at AKU. We are committed to the idea that SP simulations are important because they help to consolidate interpersonal and clinical skills, deepen awareness of patients needs, and emphasize the importance of the human element in medical education.

Using Standardized Patients (SPs)

SPs are:

Valid: SPs are comparable to a real patient; they co-create an imaginary world that feels, sounds and looks as real as if it were the world of an actual patient.

Available: SPs can be available at any time and any place within university.

Reliable: SPs can portray the same symptoms, character and give the same information repeatedly, making all aspects of their portrayal stable.

Controllable: The setting, level of difficulty and amount of information given or withheld from the learner can be controlled.

Adaptable: The simulation can be timed out or portions repeated for different opportunities.

Able to give feedback: SPs provide immediate constructive feedback to the learner from the patient's perspective regarding their communications skills.

Risk Free: Using SPs provides a safe environment for the learners. Learners don't have to be concerned with inconveniencing, harming or causing discomfort to the patients.

Requesting, Booking, Training and Compensation for SPs

Who may request SPs?

Any faculty member, tutor, or respective admin staff within the Aga Khan University. The request must be supported and approved by their program director or equivalent.

External health organizations and /or programs.

Each request will be reviewed to determine our involvement. The Standardized Patient (SP) reserves the right to decline any request based on scheduling conflicts, lack of resources or failure to meet request deadlines.

Requesting Specific SPs:

Booking SPs: All SP booking requests must be submitted by an email. We require **minimum notice of one (1) week** for booking SPs. Submission of request for specific SPs, however we may not be able to guarantee their availability. In the event that the requested SP is not available, we will arrange an alternate SP who we feel is suitable.

Confirmation: Once the request is received, the SP Coordinator will review the needs and respond to the requester. Once the SP has been recruited, you will be notified by an email with the necessary details of the scheduled SP, However; DED shall facilitate to arrange SP as per given date, time and venue by the requestor.

Training: If required, requesting department is responsible to conduct SP training at least 2 days before the exam. Date, time and venue of training and department responsibility to collect the sp instruction.

Compensation for SPs:

AKU Administration (Medical College, SONAM) and requesting departments are responsible to arrange payment for SPs (as mentioned below).

S#	Departments	Sessions / Exams	For two hours / per cycle payment for each SP
1	AKU Administration (Medical College)	For UGME Year I to V	Rs. 1000/=
2	AKU Administration (SONAM)	For all exams / sessions related to the nursing programme	Rs. 1000/=
3	DED	For Clinical Skills(year I & II), Communication Skills as a part of and Longitudinal Themes Workshops Year III, IV & V	Rs. 1000/=
4	All AKU Clinical Departments (PGME, Paeds, Medicine, Family Medicine, Psychiatry Anesthesiology, Radiology, Emergency	Communication Skills, Workshops, OSCE's etc	Rs 1000/=

	Medicine, OBGYN and Others)		
5	All AKU Departments	Training	Rs. 500/=

Minimum Payment will be Rs.1000/= for each cycle. SP remuneration may be vary as per department of finance guidelines.

Psychological Safety

To ensure psychological safety of individuals involved as standardized patients:

1. The interaction of faculty with SPs will be at all times respectful, professional and non-judgmental
2. To enhance learning and prevent psychological trauma, simulated patients do not die in the simulation. SPs must voluntarily play a role and should not be coerced or intimidated to do so.
3. During debriefing, the facilitators will use debriefing techniques that are nonjudgmental, engaging, and allow for participants' self-reflection.
4. In order to minimize psychological stress associated with disease simulation:
 - a) SP will not be called for more than one exam / session a day.
 - b) It is preferred that SP is not called for more than three exam / sessions in a week.
 - c) At least space served one week is given before SP called again.
5. If required SPs may be referred for psychological counselling / treatment.

Evaluation

SP trainer / examiner will evaluate the performance of SP during the exam / session.

Evaluation form will be provided by DED and return the forms to DED after the exam / session.

Who and How to become SP

Standardized Patient (SP) is a temporary/casual position and does not require a medical or acting background, and we encourage a diverse demographic of applicants.

Interested one will complete and submit the application and consent form along with a valid original CNIC, and other academic and professional documents.

Ethical and Professional Behavior of SPs

A SP shall be:

1. Respectful to all faculty, staff and students.
2. Deal with honestly and professional manner
3. Maintain confidentiality regarding the examination history / instructions of SP and do not reveal with the students.
4. Maintain punctuality and be on time when call for the examination / sessions.

5. Should be dressed appropriately, Wear neat and clean cloths, avoid to wear any kind of jewelry, tattoos, etc which trouble to students while performing examination.

Useful Forms

SPs Feedback Form:  Feed Back Form for SPs.pdf

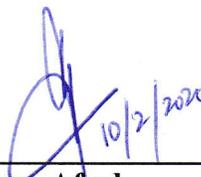
SPs Registration Form:  Registration Form SP.pdf

SP's Consent Form:  Informed Consent Standardized Patien

Approved by:


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10/2/2020

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