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| Quality assurance activity feedback – HEE South WestThis form provides feedback following a quality activity that the GMC has undertaken to further explore information submitted in the Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ). Our findings are mapped to the themes and standards in [Promoting Excellence](https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/standards-and-outcomes/promoting-excellence).  \*Publishable field (AQAS) |
| **Organisation** | HEE South West  |
| **Type** | Observation – held virtually via MS Teams |
| **Date of activity** | Tuesday 5th April 2022 |
| **GMC Owner** | Sophie Lawson |
| **Themes** | **R1.17** Organisations must support every learner to be an effective member of the multiprofessional team by promoting a culture of learning and collaboration between specialties and professions.**R1.20** Learners must have access to technology enhanced and simulation-based learning opportunities within their training programme as required by their curriculum.**R4.5** Organisations must support educators to liaise with each other to make sure they have a consistent approach to education and training, both locally and across specialties and professions. |
| **Description** | SIM (Simulation) Network Meeting |
| **Summary of QA activity** | Simulation Network meetings have been developed by HEE SW to provide technology and SBE (Simulation-Based Education) opportunities and multi-professional learning opportunities for faculty and trainees within the region. The SIM Network is supported by Simulation Leads and Associate Deans who have developed a framework for simulation and quality improvement. Within the SIM Network are five work streams that each have their own SMART objectives: Simulation technicians, Multi-agency SBE activity, Virtual Simulation and Innovation, Research, and Standardised Patients. The Network allocates funding to SBE projects, shares good practice, and engages with LEPs on areas for further focus.  |
| **Reason for Activity**  | HEE SW highlighted simulation-based education as a vital component of postgraduate medical and non-medical education within the South West. They have developed the Simulation Network supported by those with the knowledge and experience to progress simulation training within the region. It is a forum for technology enhanced and simulation-based learning opportunities as well as multi-professional learning opportunities. Within the SAQ submission, HEE SW highlighted threats to ongoing SBE activity funding as a current challenge. An observation of a Simulation Network Meeting will enable us to develop a better understanding of the learning and multiprofessional opportunities in SBE activities, alongside the practicalities of funding threats and how medical schools within the region utilise SBE to their optimum.  |
| **Feedback to Org**  | Supporting documentation provided prior to the meeting included a clear agenda and minutes from the previous Simulation Project Meeting. The chair introduced themselves clearly and highlighted GMC representatives were in attendance, along with general housekeeping. The chair also addressed the minutes from the last meeting and provided relevant updates on actions, demonstrating the closing of feedback loops. The agenda was also shared on screen during the meeting and to ensure appropriate time for important updates the chair reordered items by moving the individual Trust and project updates to last. This demonstrated the chair's willingness to work flexibly and adapt the meeting to fulfil its information sharing purposes. As the representative from the Clinical Placement Network was not present to provide an update, the chair also stepped in to provide an overview of the network and how colleagues can get involved. This demonstrated the chairs ability to work flexibly to promote an inclusive and fair information sharing forum and their good knowledge of all areas of the SIM Network by being able to provide updates on behalf of absent representatives.  The meeting appeared very well organised and chaired efficiently. Technology was utilised well via the hands up function and chat bar, with the chair actively acknowledging all comments and hands raised to ensure everyone was included. This emphasised the open forum and positive information sharing opportunities. We were also pleased to see attendees supporting each other in the comments, evidencing an opportunity for networking and information sharing. An open invitation was extended to members of the SIM Network to join the Executive Meeting and volunteer to score upcoming project applications to improve the robustness of marking application. We were pleased to observe live examples of networking opportunities for educators alongside HEE South West’s commitment to ensuring fairness in their policies and procedures.  An area of the agenda was allocated to updates from the lead of each of the five primary educational workstreams: Simulation Technicians, Multi-agency working, Telemedicine, Research, and Standardised patients. This structure appears to demonstrate an inclusive culture within the network in which leads could share information, achievements, concerns, and call for volunteers. It was encouraging to observe a shared commitment and enthusiasm to work together to develop each workstream and the eagerness of colleagues to get involved. For example, one topic of discussion during this agenda item was how best to share resources as the current HEE SharePoint mechanism can be difficult due to varying access and permissions. The group’s interest in improving current information sharing forums demonstrates a clear culture of knowledge sharing and supportive collaboration. We welcome an update in the next SAQ regarding current resource sharing mechanisms and improvements made in the context of the SIM Network.  The chair provided an update for the Simulation Technician Apprenticeship Scheme with a clear overview of what a Sim Tech is and the new career pathway for the professional group within the NHS. They explained the new apprenticeship has a curriculum specifically set for Sim Tech skills and is open to applicants with or without medical experience. It was encouraging to hear the chair praise this new scheme, share relevant application information, and encourage attendees to highlight the opportunity to support their colleagues’ professional development. This also appeared to support the organisational requirement to support learners in becoming an effective member of the multiprofessional team by promoting a culture of learning and collaboration between specialities and professions.   We were really interested by the Simulation Podcast update which included the owner delivering a presentation on how they started the podcast. They shared plenty of tips and tools live and also offered to share their planning document with anyone interested in creating their own network podcast, demonstrating the collaborative and supportive networking environment for educators. The chair appeared very enthusiastic and supportive about this area of work by highlighting the benefits and encouraging colleagues to respond to the invitation for guest speakers. This area of work appears to be a really positive way of sharing information regionally in an innovative manner, whilst also promoting the networking between educators. In light of the pandemics increased use of technology to communicate, we particularly are interested by how the Simulation Podcast plans to adapt new methods of capturing the audience's attention away from traditional burdensome emails to improve engagement and promote activity within the South West. We welcome an update in the next SAQ regarding the progress and success of the Simulation Podcast.  A portion of the meeting was also dedicated to an update and training on IRIS, an internal centralised database. It appears to be a centralised database of scenarios, in which the user can add detail on different situations and factors. The colleague presenting this agenda item provided a very clear overview of the resource, current functionalities, and plans for development. This training appeared to be a very beneficial use of time, evidenced by the many colleagues requesting access via the chat bar. We were pleased to observe enthusiastic engagement from attendees regarding this exiting piece of technology with lots of scope for future development. Attendees were also encouraged to provide feedback, demonstrating the networks commitment to continuous improvement and perceived value of educator feedback. We welcome an update in the next SAQ regarding how IRIS is used, developments, and engagement.  The chair also reminded attendees that applications were available for project funding and showed some flexibility to the deadline for submission acknowledging current service pressures. As identified in the SAQ, threats to simulation funding have been identified as a challenge so it was reassuring to hear funding is still available and demonstrates the commitment and enthusiasm to continue and enhance SBE in the region.  During the National Agenda for Simulation and TEL Network, the Chair provided a useful link between the national and regional networks by sharing important updates, responding to feedback, and sharing information. We were pleased to observe how HEE SW communicates national topics at a regional level and better understand how the two groups interact with each other. It is also reassuring to hear this is a standing agenda item, which appears to demonstrate HEE SW's commitment to information sharing and strengthening the link between national and regional work.  The meeting ended with any other business and opportunities for attendees to stay on the call to share updates from their trusts or projects. Despite running over the allocated time by a few minutes, we were pleased to see the majority of attendees remained present which appears to demonstrate they feel the meeting is useful. This provided the opportunity for attendees to celebrate progress and success, as well as highlight current and potential issues.  Overall, we were really impressed by the shared enthusiasm and commitment by HEE SW to the sharing of regional and national information and providing network opportunities for their regional colleagues. We were impressed by the chair’s knowledge and ability to provide context for all agenda items and projects, with consideration of a varied audience with different areas of interest. The chair promoted inclusivity, encouraged participation, and remained active in the chat by answering queries and signposting colleagues to appropriate resources or contacts. They demonstrate a positive link between national and regional work and highlighted multiple opportunities for attendees to network with each other and get involved. We observed a shared enthusiasm and commitment to promoting the continuation and development of Simulation Based Education within the region, alongside positive and innovative information sharing mechanisms and collaboration. From our findings it appears HEE SW supports learners to be an effective member of the multiprofessional team by promoting a culture of learning and collaboration between specialties and professions. It appears HEE SW provides access to technology enhanced and simulation-based learning opportunities in line with their curriculum and supports educators to liaise with each other to ensure a consistent approach to education and training.  |
| **Next Steps** | HEE South West has the opportunity to review this feedback for factual inaccuracies. If a response is required, this should be received within 14 days.From our observation we would like an update on the following areas in the next SAQ: * Current resource sharing mechanisms and improvements made in the context of the SIM Network
* The progress and success of the Simulation Podcast
* How IRIS is used, developments, and engagement

A summary of these findings will appear in the Annual Quality Assurance Summary (AQAS) which is produced at the end of each annual QA cycle. |