

Preparing nursing students for patient death: co-creating a digital simulation



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Background

- Nurses are vital in supporting patients and families through end-of-life care in hospitals and the community.
- In England, UK, 42.8% of deaths occur in hospitals; 57.2% in community settings like homes, care homes and hospices [1].
- Early, thorough education prepares nursing students for the emotional demands of end-of-life care.
- Simulation-based education (SBE) builds confidence, knowledge and empathy for person-centred practice and care.

Aims and Objectives

- To enhance end-of-life care education by involving nursing students in creating a digital learning tool.
- To co-produce a relevant, evidence-based resource aligned with Best Practice Standards [2].
- To pilot and evaluate the prototype to assess its effectiveness in meeting learning needs.

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Methods & Simulation Design

- A multidisciplinary team co-designed the patient death simulation.
- Simulation covers key moments: handover, death discovery, breaking bad news and debrief.
- Interactive elements are being developed to support guided learning.
- External experts review each stage to ensure quality and relevance [2].

Next stages

- Family guidance and student debriefing included based on feedback.
- Interactive guided learning to be added at key video stages.
- Prototype testing and evaluation planned for 2026
- Ongoing testing and quality checks to ensure educational effectiveness.



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 or scan QR code above for more information or to register interest

References

1. Office for National Statistics. *Death registration summary statistics, England and Wales: 2023* [Internet]. Newport (UK): ONS; 2024 May 16 [cited 2025 Oct 26].
2. INACSL Standards Committee, Watts PI, McDermott DS, Alinier G, Charnetski M, Nawathe PA. Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice™: Simulation Design. *Clin Simul Nurs*. 2021 Sep;58:14-21. doi:10.1016/j.ecns.2021.08.009.