

Appendix 1. Focus Group Protocol

Focus group protocol: simulation-based education for selected communication skills: exploring the perception of post-graduate dental students

Section 1: Differing modes of learning and teaching, and their suitability for acquiring communication skills

1. Please reflect upon the differing modes of learning and teaching.
2. What is your favourite mode of learning and teaching (e.g., lectures, online, and flipped classroom), and why?
3. What do you think is the best mode of learning and teaching for acquiring communication skills?

Section 2: The simulation-based education (SBE) learning experience under investigation

4. How was your SBE learning experience today?
5. Please describe your views on learning and teaching communication skills through SBE.
6. What, in your opinion, are the advantages/ benefits of using SBE to teach communication skills?
7. What, in your opinion, are the disadvantages/ pitfalls of using SBE to teach communication skills?

Section 3: The added value of developing communication skills among post-graduate dental students

8. Please describe the added value of teaching communication skills in the post-graduate dental curriculum.
9. Please describe the importance of proficiency of communication skills in dental practise.
10. Please describe your perception of the usefulness of what you acquired today as you proceed in the postgraduate program, that you are currently enrolled in, and (later) in your clinical practice?
11. How will you use what you acquired today?

Section 4: Wrap-up

12. What is your take-home message post simulation session?
13. Please share anything else that you would like to say about today's learning activity.