

SIMULATION FOR MEDICAL BOARD CERTIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Surgical skills simulation (SSS) tests the application of factual knowledge and shows how knowledge is applied, representing the second and third levels of Miller's Pyramid of Learning. SSS permits high-stakes scenario testing in safe environments. Therefore, SSS incorporation into initial specialty certification began in 2002 in Australia and New Zealand. The United States of America did not incorporate SSS into specialty certification, until 2008. The purpose of this paper is to determine where the United States stands in the process of SSS incorporation into specialty certification. A Google scholar Internet search, a PubMed search and hand search yielded 19 relevant articles. In 2008, cardiac catheterization simulation was required for interventional cardiology maintenance of certification (MOC). In 2010 the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) required SSS as part of the MOC program. In 2014, the summative assessment, Colorectal Objective Assessment of Technical Skills became part of the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery certification. In 2017, SSS will be added to the ABA initial certification examination. The United States has been slow to incorporate SSS into initial certification and MOC. Assessment validation, capital and recurring costs, personnel, physical facility and time requirements are barriers to rapid SSS expansion into specialty certification processes. As SSS allows rapid technical skill assessment, without posing a threat to patients, expansion of SSS into initial certification and MOC programs represents non-maleficence and beneficence, and should be encouraged.

Biography

Oroma Nwanodi graduated from Meharry Medical College of Nashville, Tennessee in the United States of America as a Medical Doctor in 2001. She specialized in Obstetrics and Gynecology at The University of Massachusetts and Maimonides Medical Center. She subsequently obtained specialization in integrative holistic medicine. She has practiced in California, Missouri, Minnesota, and Wyoming. She is currently a Doctor of Health Sciences candidate at A. T. Still University, Mesa, Arizona, in the United States of America.

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