

# Title: Empowering Healthcare: Addressing Vulnerabilities and Inequalities in Mental Health and Maternity through Co-production in Simulation

**Background:** Patients in mental health and maternity settings often face significant vulnerabilities and healthcare inequalities. These can stem from a variety of factors, including socio-economic status, cultural background, and systemic biases within healthcare systems. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach that includes education, training, and systemic change.

Simulation-based education, particularly when designed using co-production methods, offers a powerful tool to address these challenges.<sup>i</sup> Co-production involves the collaboration of healthcare professionals, educators, simulated patients (SPs), and real patients in the design and delivery of simulation activities. This approach ensures that the simulations are realistic, relevant, and sensitive to the needs and experiences of vulnerable patient populations.

**Target audience:** Healthcare professionals, educators, simulation technicians, simulated patients, people with lived experience and students.

**Session description:** This will be a collaborative, interactive workshop involving facilitated discussions and co-creation activities. Participants work in small groups to design and critique simulation scenarios using co-production principles and case studies. The workshop will encourage skill development, foster discussion on next steps and opportunities for continued collaboration.

This workshop brings together three Specialist Interest Groups (SIGs) within the healthcare simulation community: Maternity, Mental Health, and Co-production with Simulated Patients and Patients. The focus of the workshop is on the vulnerability and healthcare inequalities experienced by patients within mental health and maternity settings, and the value of designing simulation using co-production.

**Aims:** To enhance participants' understanding and practical skills in using co-production to design and deliver simulation-based education that addresses the vulnerabilities and healthcare inequalities experienced by patients in mental health and maternity settings.

## **Objectives:**

### **Highlight Vulnerabilities and Inequalities:**

- Explore the specific vulnerabilities and healthcare inequalities faced by patients in mental health and maternity settings.
- Discuss the impact of these issues on patient outcomes and healthcare delivery.

### **Showcase Co-production in Simulation:**

- Demonstrate the value of co-production in designing and delivering simulation-based education.
- Provide examples of successful co-production initiatives that have addressed vulnerabilities and inequalities.

### **Develop Practical Skills:**

- Equip participants with the knowledge and skills to implement co-production in their own simulation practices.
- Offer hands-on activities and case studies to illustrate best practices and common challenges.

#### **Foster Collaboration and Networking:**

- Create opportunities for participants to connect with peers from different SIGs and share their experiences and insights.
- Encourage ongoing collaboration and support within the healthcare simulation community.

#### **Facilitators:**

##### **Co-production with SP's and patients (COSpPs) Special Interest Group (SIG)**

- Naomi Shiner Keele University
- Lauren Philpott University of Greenwich

##### **Mental Health Special Interest Group**

- Anita Bignell, University Lecturer, Kings College London
- Chris Kowalski Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist & Simulated Learning Lead, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

##### **Maternity Special Interest Group**

- Anita Banerjee Consultant Obstetric Physician, Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust
- Lisa Cook Specialist Midwife, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS trust
- Natasha Sharman, ST6 Registrar, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

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<sup>i</sup> Clarke I, Philpott L, Buttery A. Pilot study: design, delivery and evaluation of a co-produced multi-agency mental health simulation-based education programme. International Journal of Healthcare Simulation [Internet]. 2023 Sep 30;1–12. Available from: <https://www.ijohs.com/article/doi/10.54531/qzcr2106>