



Advantages of a Virtual Clinical Day versus a Traditional Clinical Day *(see page 2)*

There are aspects of Traditional Clinical's that cannot be replaced:

- There is no substitute for hands-on, direct patient care
- Ability to work with experienced nurses on a patient unit
- Patients are unpredictable; no virtual patient can replicate the complexity of a real patient
- Ability to see teamwork in action between nurses and nursing assistants caring for patients
- Interprofessional communication is provided with nurses discussing patients with healthcare providers, PT, radiology, speech, dietary, etc.
- Communicating with patients and family members is difficult to replicate in the vClinical

However, there are many aspects of a **virtual** clinical that are superior to a traditional clinical. *(See page 2)*

Critical elements included in the ideal vClinical Day:

- Prompt start and end times
- Appropriate attire: lab coats for faculty, uniform or scrubs for students
- Pre-debriefing (Students should be prepared to discuss all aspects of care provided during the day (and prepared to present their patient at post conference). Students are advised to research topics like a traditional clinical day (proper research is critical during the vClinical day). Students may be required to prepare drug cards and other information.
- Schedule student-faculty conference throughout the day, as in a typical clinical (15 minutes per student)
- Schedule lunch periods
- Stack multiple assignments
 - Assign 6-8 sims per vClinical day (e.g., Math, Med-Pass, Dos-Calc, Med-Surg, etc). Example for Med-Surg: 2-3 specific patients per clinical day. Maternal-Newborn and Pediatrics do not exceed 2 patients per vClinical day (see suggestion guide for assignments/estimated times)
 - Faculty should be familiar with the assigned patients and keep a record of the patients assigned to avoid repeating.
- Post-debriefing: thorough discussion of assigned patients/care with students, as well as a time to practice SBAR and handoff report
- vClinical score/time reports are recorded and/or can be exported to Excel
- Add the pre and post debriefing time to the total vClinical day to equal 8-12 hours. (1 hour of vClinical equals 2 hours of real clinical time assuming 2:1 ratio is approved *(see white paper)*)
- To the best of your ability, envision that you are caring for actual patients
- Contact chloe@swiftriveronline.com for training and assignment creation help

Traditional Clinical Day

Pre/Post-debriefing

- Pre-clinical debriefing
- Unknown patient condition(s) makes teaching points difficult
- Students providing care may require knowledge validation (care maps, etc.)
- Limited conference room space

Demands on Instructors/Faculty

- Clinical **make-up** days require one faculty per student
- License exposure (malpractice)
- Difficulty finding clinical sites/specialties
- HIPAA Compliance
- Limited med-pass observation per student (*often limited to 2 students per day / limits time to observe other nursing care issues*)
- Faculty/staff must be present limiting students' ability to give independent care
- Orientation/Training to pass meds (barcode system)
- # of patients per cohort (one instructor watching multiple students in various settings)

Demands of Hospital

- Requires Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Assigning mentoring staff nurse to students can be inconsistent

Patient Care

- Observation of patient care with little knowledge of the patient's condition (8 students - 16 patients)
- Preparatory research for patient meds/diagnosis
- Patient reports can be challenging for students to hear/participate
- Students spend less than 25% in clinical judgement activities

Other

- Travel time, parking, gas expenses

Ideal vClinical Day

Pre/Post-debriefing

- Similar Pre-clinical debriefing
- Questions/Learning about specific patients can be discussed with all students
- Instructor will determine student competency with scores, times, and post-debriefing requirements
- Meet anywhere/anytime via Video Conference

Demands on Instructors/Faculty

- Clinical **make-up** days do not require a faculty member to be present
- No risk for licensure exposure
- 24/7 vClinical availability – *no competition for space, ten specialties, and more coming*
- No forms necessary
- Students' med pass are measured without supervision (*including time, accuracy, and call light distractors*)
- Gives students the ability to work independently, faculty view scores/times remotely
- No time/orientation needed for a specific hospital barcode Med-Pass system
- Several specific patients may be selected, allowing the instructor to conduct a controlled debriefing

Demands of Hospital

- No PPE needed
- Mentoring staff is not necessary

Patient Care

- Instructor has a detailed patient inventory including meds, concepts, acuity, etc.
- Research can be done prior and/or during the vClinical day
- Students hear a report for each patient assigned. Continuous assessment and improvement of listening skills
- Students spend 85% in clinical judgement activities

Other

- No travel time or parking/gas expense required