

Simulations

Lived-experience experts, simulation educators, researchers, healthcare providers and other key stakeholders created two simulations that focus on having conversations about sexuality and disability between healthcare providers, clients and families. Please note that these simulations are intended to act as a conversation starter and do not necessarily reflect best conversation practices. Consult with your local healthcare provider for assistance with conversations about sexuality and disability.



Watch

Select a simulation. For each simulation there are two different encounters. Watch both encounters, as each one models differently a conversation about sexuality and disability.



Reflect and/or Discuss

Either on your own or as a group, consider the following questions for each encounter:

1. How do you think each of the individuals felt in the situation? Why do you think they felt like that?
2. What did the healthcare provider do or say that was helpful? Why?
3. What could the healthcare provider have done or said that could have been even more effective?
4. What family or client strengths did/could the healthcare provider capitalize on?
5. What are the main messages you will take away from this scenario?



Think

Reflecting on how these two encounters felt for you:

1. What differences did you notice?
2. What changes do you feel inspired to make when you're working with clients and families?

1

Engaging in sexuality-related discussions without assumptions and judgement

Matthew is a 14 year old boy with autism spectrum disorder and is largely non-verbal. He and his mother Jackie are visiting the psychopharmacology clinic for a routine appointment to monitor the effects of his antipsychotic medication. The doctor asks if the medication has affected the child's functioning in any way, including sexual function. The mother jumps in immediately to say that the topic is not relevant for her son.

2

Broadening the meaning of sexuality for clients

Grace is a 18 year old girl who has cerebral palsy and just recently had hip surgery. She is meeting with Julie, a social worker, to discuss discharge planning. As part of their conversation, sexuality is brought up hesitantly by Grace. She talks about her relationship with her boyfriend and is unsure about how her injury will affect her sexually.