The Bionic Patient

"We can reboot him... we have the technology"

Hi, I am a simulation manikin and my super powers can be used to simulate many medical scenarios clinicians may encounter in remote WA. My controllers can make me:

- breathe various patterns dependent on head position and simulate a multitude of airway complications
- simulate various cardiac arrhythmias
- produce breathing, heart, and bowel sounds
- bleed
- convulse
- open/close my eyes, cry and react to light
- respond to various types of drug administration.

My mission is to help clinicians get the advanced range of skills necessary to work in country WA.

Keeping the simulated learning show on the road

In 2012, the Western Australian Department of Health successfully secured Health Workforce Australia funding to buy a selection of highly sophisticated simulation manikins and despatched them throughout WA’s 2.5 million km² area on a mission to be used to upskill clinicians working in remote and rural locations.

The manikins, which can be remotely controlled from a centre in Perth or onsite, give the clinicians the opportunity to train in paediatrics, obstetrics, trauma and advanced life support.

However, while clinicians have the skills to fix broken people, what happens when the manikin breaks down?

The Immersive and Simulation-based Learning Committee — a group of simulation experts from public and private health providers, universities and the vocational education sector — recommended a Centralised Maintenance Unit (CMU) to service the manikins.

In January 2013, WA Health’s Clinical Simulation Support Unit secured seed funding from Health Workforce Australia to set up the CMU at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth.

The CMU mission is to provide:

- technical expertise for the full range of sophisticated manikins
- immediate technical support via teleconference
- rapid shipment to the CMU if necessary
- annual servicing
- a database of all simulation equipment held by WA Health
- maintenance protocols for each type of manikin.

For further information, contact:

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