

Standardized Patients

Standardized Patients (SPs) are individuals or professional actors who are trained to portray the personal history, physical symptoms, emotional characteristics, and everyday concerns of a real patient. SPs play a variety of roles that facilitate experiential learning of healthcare professionals, and are skilled at providing constructive feedback from the unique perspective of a patient to learners at all levels.

For the Gateways II educational intervention, our project team worked with the University of Toronto's Standardized Patient Program to develop the patient scenarios and train the actors for the Simulation Workshop. The scenarios involve composite characters of patients based on the real stories, experiences, and recommendations from women with disabilities who participated in the Gateways I project. The scenarios were also designed to meet the stated learning needs of healthcare providers who participated in focus groups for the Gateways II project.

There are fees associated with the development of the scenarios, training SPs for the role, and using the SPs during the actual simulation workshop. If you plan to use SPs from the University of Toronto program, we recommend that you connect with them at www.spp.utoronto.ca 3-4 months in advance of your start date to discuss your program needs.

If you do not have access to SPs, the simulation workshop can be developed using role-playing techniques with staff. Alternatively, community agencies involved in disability advocacy (for example, Centres for Independent Living), could be contacted and asked if they would like to participate