

HSN Simulation Educators Update November 2025

In 2022, the Simulation lab staff at Health Sciences North received a Nurse Innovator Award grant of \$20,000 to design an online “one-stop shop” for procedural-based nursing skills simulation station information. The goal was to provide nurse educators with tools for assessing needs and evaluating the impact of their hands-on educational initiatives, while being able to build or procure required procedural task trainers and equipment in a cost-effective manner. Geared to northern nursing conditions, the team planned to build an open-access professional website to implement and evaluate low-resource procedural skills simulations for staff nurses and nurse educators regardless of previous simulation experience. The website was created and is now known as *SPRUCE-RN*.

We were pleased to share a recent update from Simulation Manager Alex Wood:

The [SPRUCE-RN website](#) continues to be an excellent resource for nurses in rural and remote areas as a jumping off block for engaging in simulation. Since the launch of the website, three key features have been added:

- The Northern Rural Simulation Resources tab provides nurses with resources specific to their needs in underserved areas. The tab also facilitates building community locally and regionally by connecting them with the Northern Simulation Network, and the PRACTISS team.
- The Northern Educator Calendar promotes key regional healthcare education events in for Northern Ontario. This platform amplifies events to aid in recruitment and breaks down barriers for healthcare providers in the North seeking to add to their training or build competencies.
- The HSN Simulation Lab calendar provides external partners with information on the HSN Simulation Lab, which acts as the Northeastern hub for high-fidelity simulation. This tab provides information about equipment, resources, and services other regional simulation labs can acquire or provide. The tab also encourages external partners to contact the HSN Simulation Lab for consultation, simulation-specific courses, and booking services.
- Starting in Winter 2025-2026 the HSN Simulation Lab will also be providing information about equipment rental and consumable donations. This information will assist regional educators in Northern Ontario by further reducing the cost and barriers to simulation education in rural-remote areas.

For more information about this Health Sciences North project, visit the [Innovation in Nursing](#) page of the RNFOO website.

SPRUCE-RN.com is a website for Canadian rural-remote nurses to start hands-on education at their site, without breaking the bank. We strive to empower any nurse to create a task trainer, then implement and evaluate key nursing skills relevant to their practice, regardless of their simulation or craft skill level!*