Bridging the Skills & Simulation Labs

A Blueprint for Realistic Med Admin Practice

sim2grow
SIMULATION SOLUTIONS

When Skills Lab and Simulation Don't Line Up

If you've ever watched students pass meds in the skills lab without a problem, only to freeze during simulation, you're not alone.

The skills lab is where students learn how to give meds, while the simulation lab is where they're expected to know when and why.

The problem? When those two spaces don't connect, students feel like they're starting over each time. They get the steps right in the skills lab, then stumble when clinical reasoning and teamwork come into play. The result: anxious students and faculty spending precious time reteaching what students already "passed."

When the labs work together, students don't just memorize — they understand. Repetition meets realism, and that's when confidence and competence click.

What Changes When the Labs Align

Bridging the two labs doesn't mean doubling your work. It means aligning what you already do so students experience one consistent, realistic process.

Think of it as a simple flow:
Skills Lab → Simulation Lab → Clinical Readiness.

Each builds on the last using the same safe workflow — access meds, scan for safety, administer, and document. When that process stays consistent, students stop seeing med pass as a checklist and start treating it as part of real patient care.

Phase	Purpose	Faculty Focus	Student Experience
Skills Lab	Build muscle memory	Repetition & safety	Practice fundamentals confidently
Simulation Lab	Build decision-making	Add teamwork & prioritization	Apply skills under realistic pressure
Together	Build consistency	Align expectations	Seamless confidence from lab to clinical

A Practical Checklist for Aligning Your Labs

You don't need to overhaul your program — just connect the dots. Try these practical steps that nursing faculty like you can start using this week:

- ☑ **Use One Shared Workflow.**
  Keep the med pass steps identical across labs: dispense, verify, check, scan, administer, document. Familiarity builds confidence.

- ☑ **Standardize the "Rights."**
  Teach and evaluate the 3 "Checks" and a consistent number of "Rights" the same way in both labs – no new terms, no new rubrics.

- ☑ **Add Realism Early.**
  Introduce barcode scanning, eMARs, and electronic documentation in fundamentals. It doesn't have to be complex – just consistent.

- ☑ **Build Complexity Gradually.**
  Start with repetition in the skills lab, then add communication and prioritization challenges in simulation.

- ☑ **Simplify Reset Time.**
  Design your process so you can reset quickly between students. Every extra repetition builds mastery.

- ☑ **Debrief with the Same Framework.**
  Ask: What did you notice? What mattered most? How did your choices impact safety?

- ☑ **Evaluate for Consistency, Not Completion.**
  Measure readiness with one rubric. Students (and faculty) benefit when expectations don't shift between labs.

Once we used the same workflow in both labs, our students came to simulation ready – and we finally had time to teach clinical reasoning instead of button-pushing.

What We Were Seeing in Our Own Labs

Before Sim2Grow, we were improvising too — mixing paper charts, outdated carts, and clunky software just to give students a "realistic" experience. We knew there had to be a better way.

So we built Sim2Grow: a complete med admin system designed by nurse educators for nurse educators. It brings realism, consistency, and simplicity to every step of the process. Perfect in the skills lab and the sim lab.

- One seamless workflow from med room to bedside
- Quick reset between students
- Barcode scanning and realistic eMAR
- No Wi-Fi connections needed during student use

You bring the curriculum. We bring the realism.

Bringing It All Together

You don't need to overhaul your curriculum — just connect what you already have. When your skills and simulation labs use the same workflow, students gain confidence faster, and faculty spend less time resetting and reteaching.

That need for connection is what shaped Sim2Grow. It supports a consistent, realistic medication administration process — from dispense to documentation — used across both skills and simulation labs.

Scan the QR code to watch a short video showing how a shared medication workflow can support both skills and simulation labs. Skills and Sim Lab Video

Scan to watch a short overview

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