

# Using VPs for assessment of clinical competence in postgraduate Paediatric Nurse Education

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## Background

Studies with students and experienced clinically active nurses have shown that it is possible to use Virtual Patients (VP) to assess clinical competence in Specialist Nursing Care. The experienced nurses' performance has been the basis for creating a semi-automatic scoring and grading model using VPs.

It is important that students know what question to be asked, how to prioritize and that they can present an informed clinical decision for patient safety.

## Summary of Work

Paediatric cases for nursing were implemented in a VP system and an assessment module was developed. This study tested the preliminary scoring and grading models using VPs for an examination in three different courses in postgraduate Specialist Nursing Paediatric Care

## Summary of Results

The result gave information regarding scoring paediatric nurse students' abilities to prioritize among interview question and what kind of physical exams they had chosen in the VP-based exam. The result also indicated how students' suggestions of diagnoses, treatments and the motivations (which were in free text) could be weighted in the assessment module.

## Conclusions

Nursing schools need critically discuss how to score and grade VP-based exams.

## Take-home Messages

VP-based exams need to be scored and graded with care.