Virtual Practice Environment (VPE)

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VPE: What is it?

- It is a flexible teaching space
- The VPE covers for main areas
  - Immersive environment – role play
  - Small group collaboration – 4 per group/laptop
  - Virtual teaching – Second Life or Virtual Patient
  - 'Standard' single screen teaching i.e. PowerPoint
- Key concepts:
  - Immersion
  - Capacity

Teaching and Learning Pharmacy Practice in VPE

- Two VPEs (maximum 24 students/VPE)
  - Dynamic environment
  - Flexible (capacity to create any environment we want)
  - Immersion of students in any practice environment
    - Hospital ward, Nursing home, Patient’s home, Community pharmacy, Company board room, Manufacturing plant, etc
  - Work with production company to capture visual and audio experience of practice settings
    - Using green screen to value add – unit coordinator overview and introduction, actors as patients to introduce themselves, etc
    - Video/stills within video - eg medicines and resources for each class

Teaching and Learning Pharmacy Practice in VPE

- Provide familiarity with the structure and processes students will experience in experiential placements (and in practice)
  - in an environment that is safe and supervised in a carefully guided educational framework
- “Virtual” nature of the environment complemented by relevant props and resources
  - Wireless laptops for access to information
    - Tutor can pick up any laptop to present student work
- Not designed to replace experiential placements during the course
- Ongoing development
  - Green screen – put students “in” the setting
  - Interactive media – keepads, voice recognition, etc
  - Virtual patient assessment with remote students (IPL, video conf)
VPE – student and staff response

- Just finishing both spaces now but used for some classes already
- VPEs already have the 'WOW' factor
  - Students
    - ask to be in classes in these rooms
  - Initial feedback – “feel like I am in a pharmacy”
  - Academic staff (not only pharmacy practice)
    - Some concerns about managing technology (SOPs developed)
  - PP staff very receptive and exploring various ways to use to full capacity. Other staff keen to participate as well
- One staff member stepped out of the way of person in video