

## **Virtual Patients Info**

### 1) What is a virtual patient?

A virtual patient (VP) is defined as: “an interactive computer simulation of real-life clinical scenarios for the purpose of medical training, education, or assessment” (Ellaway et al. 2006).

### 2) Are the virtual patients based on real patients?

Yes! Many of the virtual patients are based on real patients or real consultant/clinical experiences. Many of the characters in the cases are however fictional. The real patient based cases are obtained with the patient’s full consent, and the identity of the patient is never revealed.

## **User Guide**

### 1) How do I get a case(s)?

You can get cases by downloading them from ‘Get Cases’ to the ‘My Cases’ area. Both of these tabs can be found on the menu bar at the bottom of the screen. In order to check for new downloadable cases, click ‘Sync’ button at the top right corner of the ‘Get Cases’ screen. To do this you will need network connections.

### 2) How do I download a case using the App?

To download a case, go to ‘Get Cases’ on the bottom tab of the screen. Choose a case of your choice from the available downloads. A description of the case should appear and below this select ‘Download Case.’ Once downloaded, the case will be added to the ‘My Cases’ collection.

### 3) Where are my cases saved?

Cases are saved in the ‘My Cases’ area, this can be found on the bottom tab of the screen. The cases are saved on the phone to enable offline use.

### 4) How do I play a case?

To play a case, select a case of your choice from ‘My Cases’ on the bottom tab. Read through the Virtual Patient case information. When prompted, select an option to proceed through the case, at points you may be presented with more than one option. In this instance, there are different paths through the case, and you will be able to explore all pathways at your leisure. Continue to select options until you reach the end of the case. Select the device ‘back’ button if you want to go back to the previous page.

### 5) How does the scoring work?

The scoring for each case is based on the correctness of the chosen option/s. The correct option would attain a positive score (+1) and the wrong option, a negative score (-1). The total score would be the sum of the positive and negative scores you have attained, which is available at the end of the case. Note that not all cases have scoring in them.

### 6) When would I be able to view my final score for a particular case?

The final score will be displayed only once you finish a case where scoring is available.

7) Where are my final scores displayed for a particular case?

The final scores are displayed next to the case name once you finish the case. The scores for all cases played can be seen within the “High Scores” screen found on the button menu.

8) I can't find scoring for some cases?

Not all cases have scoring functionality. When you start a particular case, if you are able to see the default score, '0' on top right corner of the page, it means the case has the scoring functionality built in.

9) Where can I view all the cases that I have taken along with their scores?

Please visit 'High Scores' on the bottom tab of the screen to view a list of the cases that you have played with the scores. Cases that have not been completed will show a value of 0.

10) How do I quit a case?\*

To exit or quit a case midway, click the 'Exit' button from the top right corner of the screen. A prompt will appear on the screen asking if you would like to quit the current case, select Yes.

11) How do I delete a case?

To delete a case from 'My Cases', hold down the name of the appropriate case until a pop-up appears. In the pop-up window, select 'Yes' and the case will be removed from 'My Cases'.

12) How do I zoom in / out the pages of the cases if required?\*

To zoom in/out a particular page, select the device 'back' button, and then select the appropriate magnifying glass. Tap on the glass until you are able to achieve a reasonable size for the text.

To zoom into an image, line your thumb and pointer finger up with two opposite edges of the multi-touch screen. Then gently move your fingers apart. To zoom out, gently move your fingers towards each other.

13) What are the statistics at the end of each case?

When you finish a case, you are presented with two options 'Restart Case' and Statistics.' The Statistics button will present you with a list of all the pages you visited on your pathway from start to finish for that particular case. This would help you analyse the selected pathways more efficiently and revisit pages.

14) Do I need a 3G or Wi-Fi to play the cases?

To play a downloaded case, neither 3G or Wi-Fi is required. However, you need to have a 3G or Wi-Fi connection to download cases.

15) Can I use the App while travelling; say when I'm in the underground, where there is no network connection?

Yes, you can use the App to play the downloaded cases which are in 'My Cases' even when there is no network connection.

*\*It will vary depending on the device you are using. For support contact: [mobile@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:mobile@sgul.ac.uk)*