



# SimLa Innovations

Project: **Thrift Store Galore**  
Materials: Transportation and a free afternoon  
Cost: Depends on the 'find'  
Time: Up to you

Details: If you are responsible for your simlab, you can appreciate the costs to run an effective simulation lab. One source states that start-up costs for a free-standing center *starts* at \$200,000 with \$15,000 annual maintenance (Herrington, 2017). I would assume this is without hi-fi mannequins. Who has that kind of money? I run a modest, 4-bed simlab, and one semester of simulations cost \$7,152.00 (or about \$14,000 per year). One scenario averages \$41.50 per run. Here are *some* of the items I have found at thrift stores to offset those costs.

- Computer monitors (for bedside vital signs monitors)
- Karaoke machine (attach a few hoses and you have a ventilator) (Image 'A')
- Small dehumidifier (attach hoses and you have a wound vac) (Image 'B')
- Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, bedside commodes (tell them what you need them for and ask for a discount)
- Bed pads (chux), wash cloths, other bedside supplies
- Patient night gowns/robes, slippers, wigs, glasses (all help change persona of live, embedded patient, *and mannequins*)
- Small electronics (old caller ID's make nice 'teles') or old bedside alarm clocks (add a few defib pads and you have a TENS unit (Image 'C'))
- Office supplies for the nursing station (esp. binders for pt. charts)

It has been said that doctors find what they are looking for. By keeping a keen eye peeled the next time you are at a thrift store, you might find some bargains for your simlab at a fraction of the cost of the real-deal. Oh, and if you run into me, say 'hi.'

*Dr. Dave.*

*Images next page*



Image 'A'

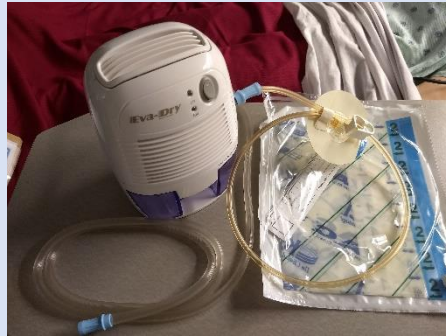


Image 'B'

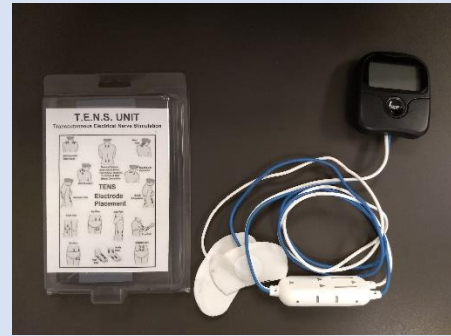


Image 'C'

Reference:

Herrington, A. (2017). Simulation center finances: Calculating fees and costs. Retrieved from <https://nlnteq.org/2017/05/08/simulation-center-finances-calculating-fees-and-costs/>