

# Virtual Simulation in Skills Labs: Developing a French-Canadian Version of MyDispense

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## Key takeaways

### Implementation of MyDispense at the *Université de Montréal* :

- First **Canadian** user of MyDispense
- Translation of MyDispense to **French**
- Integration in the pharmacy programs since 2022, mostly in **skills labs**
- **Collaborations** established with partner institutions, notably pharmacy technicians' college

## Background

### Context

- A committee was mandated for **skills labs modernization** in our PharmD program in 2022. The final report recommended an **updated educational model**, including virtual simulation, to meet competency enhancement needs including the dispensing process.
- MyDispense is a **virtual simulation** platform developed and provided by Monash University. This cloud software is used by more than 240 institutions worldwide. It was selected at our Faculty after a pilot project comparing 2 software and based on students' and instructors' preference.

### Objective

To **adapt** the virtual simulation software MyDispense to the **French-Canadian environment** and to propose an integration to the PharmD curriculum at the *Université de Montréal*.

## Methods

A **working group** from the Faculty of Pharmacy was formed including professors and instructors. A **development plan** including the type of cases and activities was established in 2022 and is ongoing. **Funding** was obtained through a subsidy from the vice-rectorate for academic affairs, making it possible to engage summer students and community pharmacists in this initiative.

### Objectives for virtual simulation at the *Université de Montréal*

Provide more training on OTCs, herbal medications, and natural health products, and related counselling

Main themes: dermatology (using pictures of skin conditions and diverse patients), gastroenterology, immunology, infectiology

Expose students to more prescription validation and dispensing activities

Adapt some 1<sup>st</sup>-year communication learning activities to online delivery mode to cope with larger cohorts

Offer more timely and personalized feedback

Suggest facultative revision activities prior to exams and OSCEs

### Development steps since 2022

1. Project subsidized by a fund from the vice-rectorate for academic affairs
2. Skills labs team meetings to prepare a 2-3 years plan of which activities to prioritize, reevaluated every 6 months
3. Recruitment of community pharmacists and teaching assistants to assist in the adaptation and implementation
4. Development of a case template for the creation of activities adapted to pharmaceutical care in Canada and to our provincial scope of practice
5. Very limited training required for both educators and learners (intuitive)

## Results

The working group ensured an **optimal integration** of the software in the PharmD curriculum and the international pharmacy graduate bridging program. **Mapping** of the available activities was done in a spreadsheet.

### Current achievements

- 70** Exercises or scenarios created (OTC, validation, dispensing)
- 1200** Canadian medications integrated (selected and photographed)
- ✓ French translation (all phrases, titles, and idioms)
- ✓ Canadian prescription templates
- ✓ Canadian label template
- ✓ Canadian fictitious prescribers (from various health professions)

### Next steps

- Expecting future versions of MyDispense allowing to better practice professional activities using our **full scope of practice**
- Involving other faculty members from **pharmacotherapy courses**
- Using the **assessment mode**

## Conclusions

The Université de Montréal is the first Canadian university, and the first francophone faculty worldwide, to successfully implement MyDispense as one of the new techno-pedagogical approach to provide students with basic skills within the safety of the simulated environment. Future projects will aim to evaluate the impact of this technology on competency development and to establish partnerships with other Canadian and francophone universities.

