

# “Not being afraid of saying dying”

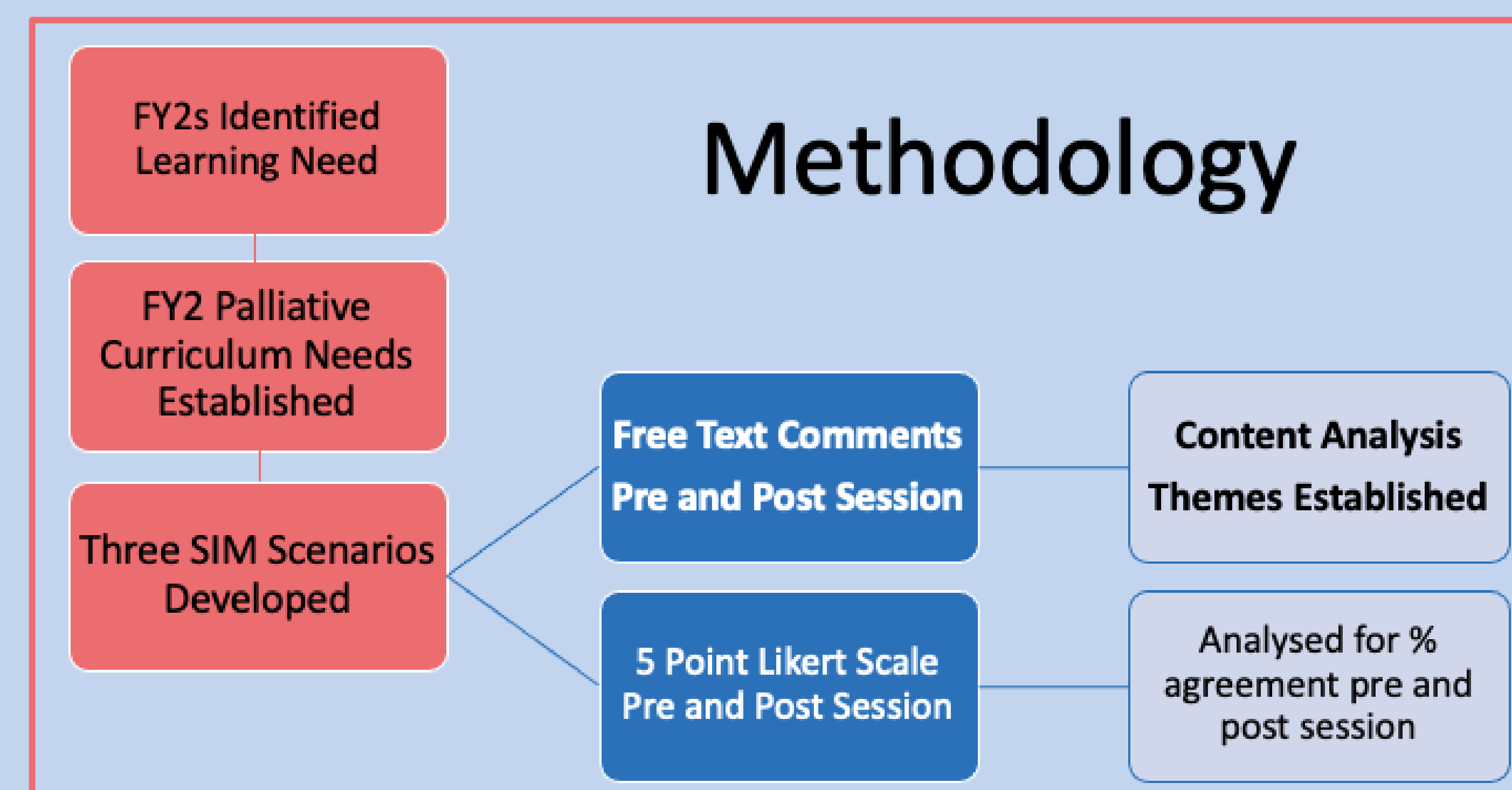
Sharing key vocabulary for palliative care discussions through simulation debrief



A. Huggin, L. Massey, L. Robinson, O. Leng & D. Churm

## Introduction

Simulation as a learning platform is recognised internationally as beneficial in terms of education, training, and assessment of doctors. This study aimed to introduce and evaluate a novel Palliative Medicine simulation session as a tool for Foundation Year 2 (FY2) doctors to gain competency and confidence in the assessment and management of life-limiting illness.



## Results

### FY2 key Palliative Care challenges

#### Communication

- “Saying the wrong thing or using the wrong words”

#### Prognostication

- “How to spot earlier when a frail patient becomes a dying patient”

#### Process of complex decision-making

- “Handling DNACPR” and “complex Treatment Escalation Plans”

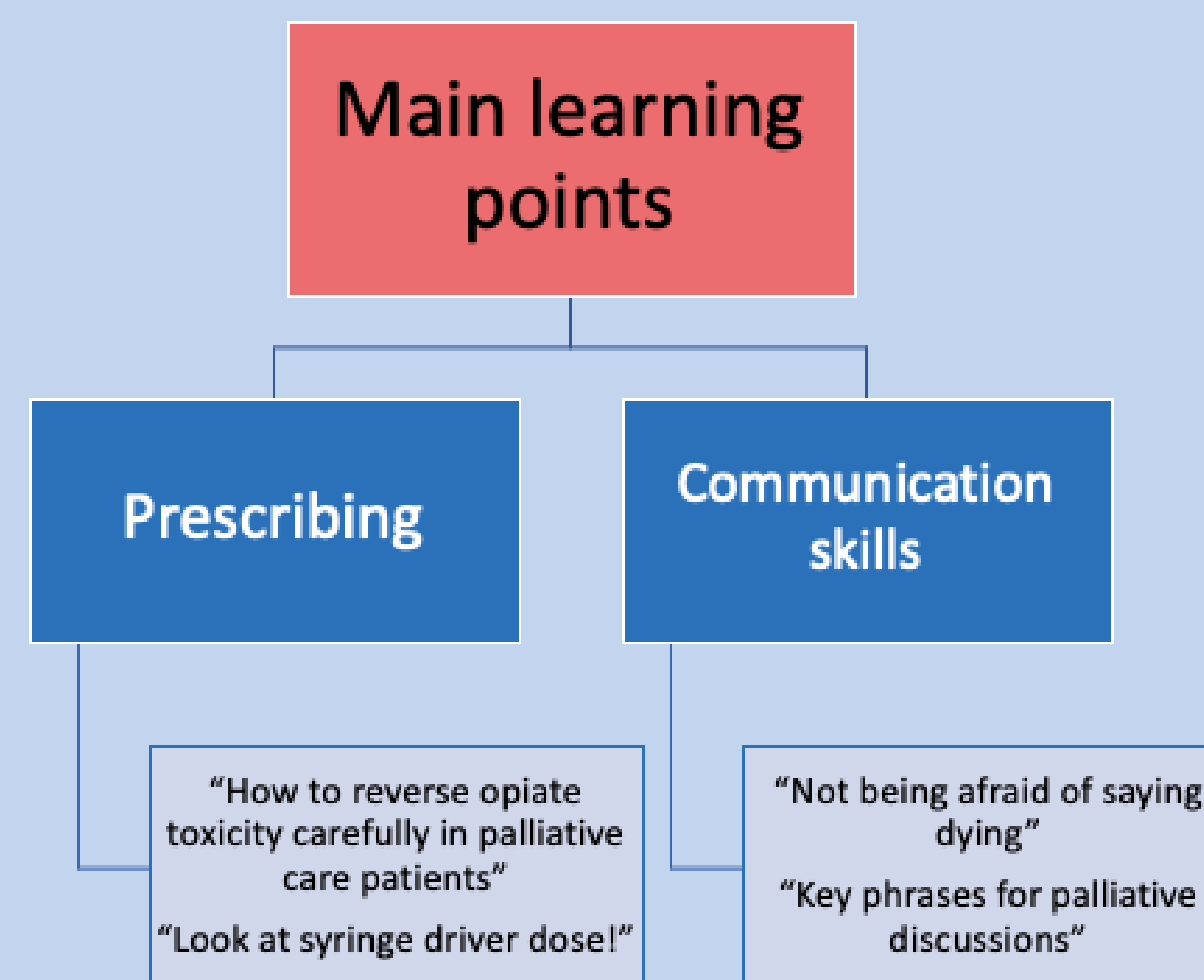
95.6% of FY2s felt the session addressed these challenges.

The **debrief** was the most highly valued, and frequently mentioned positive element of the session.



Image: 'Vivien' Senior Manikin

## Results



## Conclusion

FY2 doctors identified communication as their biggest concern when managing Palliative Care patients. Our session addressed this through open and frank debrief discussion. This allowed reflection on previous experience and peer to peer learning of key vocabulary when talking to patients with a limited prognosis. Further qualitative evaluation of the impact of this session on clinical practice and how peer learning could be incorporated into day-to-day skills development on the wards would be of value.

### References:

1. National Strategic Vision of Sim In Health and Care (hee.nhs.uk)
2. Howorth, K. et al 2021. 44 Palliative simulation for internal medicine trainees (PALL-SIM-IM): a nationally adopted education initiative in response to shape of training.
3. Robson C and McCartan K. Real world research : a research for users of social research methods in applied settings. 4th ed.: Hoboken : Wiley, 2016.