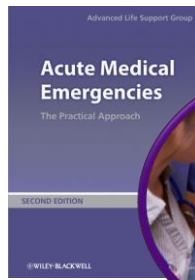


ALSG's medical education & training programmes improve outcomes for people in life-threatening situations, anywhere along the health care pathway, anywhere in the world.



# MedicALS

## Acute Medical Emergencies: The practical approach

As the complexity of patients presenting to hospital continues to increase, the Acute Medical Emergencies (MedicALS) course provides the necessary skills and foundation required for clinicians to manage the acutely unwell medical patient. The aim of the course is not to teach you the whole acute medicine curriculum, rather to hone the knowledge and skills you already possess to enable you to manage patients in a structured approach. Therefore, the course is predicated on the fact that you have a firm grasp on how to manage the common acute medical emergencies which includes appropriate risk stratification tools, drugs and their doses. It will focus on the physiology of the human body and the pathophysiology of medical diseases which is core to the management of these conditions. It is therefore expected for you to have an understanding of these concepts. The course will also focus on your communication skills with the ability refer or handover the care of a patient in a structured way and to ensure all salient information is imparted. By the end of the course, it will enable you to:

- Deliver prompt and accurate assessment of the acutely unwell medical patient
- Effectively manage acute medical emergencies in a systematic way
- Apply the appropriate monitoring, order and interpret investigations
- Formulate an ongoing management plan
- Provide effective communication through handover or referral
- Reassess the response to treatment and alter management as required

### Candidate criteria and eligibility

MedicALS is mapped to the Acute Internal Medicine and General Internal Medicine (acute presentations) curricula and is delivered by instructors with experience in both, and also Emergency and Critical Care Medicine. The programme is suitable for:

- Those from an Emergency Medicine, Acute & General Medicine, Anaesthetics, Critical Care, Physicians Assistant or Advanced Practitioner background, who autonomously assess and manage acutely ill patients.
- Trainee doctors - CMT, ACCS and above as the course prepares you to be the medical registrar on-take, Emergency Department or Critical Care middle grade.
- It would also be of benefit to Advanced Care and Emergency Care Practitioners, Physician Assistants who work in the Emergency Department (ED) or Acute Medical areas Unit (eg AMU, AEC, hospital at night, critical care outreach) and other areas where acute unstable medical patients may present.
- Nurses not in an Advanced Practitioner role can apply to attend a MedicALS course as an observer—when booking please state clearly that you want to observe only.

This is a continuous assessment course and thus you will be expected to perform to a standard throughout the whole course irrespective what role you are providing e.g. team leader, team member or critique. Consistently we receive queries as to whether someone is eligible to take the course. Everyone is eligible to take the course but to ensure you get the best value from the course it is better to do it when you have had at least 2 years of medical experience and you have been able to see a wide range of medical conditions. In the end the decision to do the course is yours and should ideally fit in with your professional development plans.

Those who excel throughout the course by demonstrating appropriate knowledge, team working, communication skills including support and constructive feedback will be considered to become an instructor and so continue their ongoing educational journey.

## MedicALS curriculum and key information

Online e-modules to be completed prior to a face-to-face course. The course is run throughout the UK and overseas and the cost varies across course centres.

### 17 e-module topics

- Introduction
- Structured approach to medical emergencies
- Top to toe examination
- The breathless patient
- The shocked patient
- Chest pain
- Peri-arrest rhythm recognition
- Chest x-ray interpretation
- System for D review
- Special circumstances
- Inotropes
- Blood gas interpretation
- The poisoned patient
- The collapsed patient
- Headache
- Pyrexia
- Fluids and electrolytes
- Blood tests

### Course manual

The course manual focuses on the normal physiology during health and the pathophysiology of disease.

### 2-day face-to-face course

#### Lectures

- Structured approach to medical emergencies including demonstration
- Sepsis, shock, fluid resuscitation and vasoactive drugs

#### Simulations

- Airway and breathing
- Circulation
- Disability and exposure
- Sepsis, shock, fluid resuscitation and vasoactive drugs
- Secondary assessment
- Total assessment

## Assessment and certification

Assessment takes place continuously throughout the course culminating in a final simulation assessment on day three of the course. MedicALS certification is valid for four years and includes access to our VLE during this time.

## Recertification options

All recertifying candidates must undertake the full course again after four years.

## Resources

- [Publications](http://bit.ly/ALSGPub) - <http://bit.ly/ALSGPub>
- [Testimonials](http://bit.ly/ALSG_Testimonials) - [http://bit.ly/ALSG\\_Testimonials](http://bit.ly/ALSG_Testimonials)

<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup>: The Royal College of Physicians, 2013. Hospital workforce Fit for the future?, London.

<sup>3</sup> Moore et al, 2013, NHS Future Forum Education and Training – next stage, London.

## Booking a course

To book your next course, simply scan this code using your smart phone or visit us online at <http://bit.ly/ALSGcourses>



*“A greater proportion of doctors urgently need to be trained in the skills of acute...medicine”<sup>1</sup>  
“I want more time with my SHOs, teaching them how to do lumbar punctures and things...  
I think that probably the first thing to go when you are busy is the teaching and training of others.”<sup>2</sup>*

## Continuous Professional Development

Revised guidance from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges emphasises that the focus of CPD should be on its quality and reflection of its impact on a clinician’s practice, rather than the amount of time spent on the activity. The responsibility for identifying CPD requirements rests with the individual and should be based on their personal areas of practice and personal development plan agreed at their annual appraisal. Although one ‘CPD credit’ will normally equate to one hour of educational activity, the amount of educational activity obtained from a specific event may vary between individuals depending on an individual’s specific learning outcomes.



## Information for educators and managers

As a charity, ALSG invests all profits in educational resources and partners with the most effective and respected organisations worldwide to develop exceptionally high quality programmes. ALSG education quality is verified, accredited and recognised internationally as ‘best in class’, contributing to better outcomes for patients in life-threatening situations.

## Important course updates and references

There are currently no updates or references for MedicALS

## Courses to consider

You may also wish to consider the following courses:

- [NAPSTaR - Neonatal, Adult and Paediatric Safe Transfer and Retrieval](http://bit.ly/NAPSTaR_FS) - [http://bit.ly/NAPSTaR\\_FS](http://bit.ly/NAPSTaR_FS)
- [HMIMMS - Major Incident Medical Management and Support: in the hospital setting](http://bit.ly/HMIMMS_FS) - [http://bit.ly/HMIMMS\\_FS](http://bit.ly/HMIMMS_FS)
- [APLS - Advanced Paediatric Life Support](http://bit.ly/APLS_FS) - [http://bit.ly/APLS\\_FS](http://bit.ly/APLS_FS)
- [APEx - Acute Psychiatric Emergencies](http://bit.ly/APEx_FS) - [http://bit.ly/APEx\\_FS](http://bit.ly/APEx_FS)

*“What we want to see is increased consistency and quality in education and training and consequently in people’s outcomes and experiences...service delivery and education are fundamentally interlinked.”<sup>2</sup>*