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Centre guide

Pre Obstetric Emergency Training (POET)



Obstetric

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What is POET?



The POET course provides essential training for any clinician who may be required to manage obstetric emergencies, whether in hospital or out-of-hospital settings. By blending interactive online learning with practical, hands-on skills training, POET builds the confidence and competence needed to recognise and respond to time-critical obstetric emergencies.

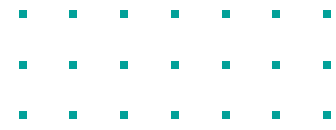
During the course, candidates will learn a clear and structured approach to assessment, understand the key interventions that should be delivered before arranging patient transport, and develop the judgement to identify when rapid transfer is required.

Whether clinicians are new to obstetric emergencies, or looking to refresh and enhance their expertise, POET provides the knowledge, practical skills, and confidence needed to deliver safer, effective care for patients and their families, during critical high-pressure moments.

The blended learning package combines a course manual, interactive e-modules, workshops, lectures, simulations and practical demonstrations. Key topics covered include:

- Early pregnancy emergencies
- Pre-eclampsia and eclampsia
- Recognising and responding to confusion and agitation
- Trauma
- Shock, collapse and cardiac arrest in pregnancy
- Emergencies after delivery
- Newborn resuscitation
- Ectopic pregnancy
- Normal delivery and complications of delivery

Why run POET?



The Pre Obstetric Emergency Training (POET) course equips multidisciplinary teams with the essential knowledge, practical skills, and confidence needed to manage obstetric emergencies safely and effectively. Delivering the course within your organisation helps standardise training across staff groups, strengthen clinical preparedness, and ensure faster, more coordinated responses during time-critical situations. POET enhances clinical competence while also supporting smoother team communication, ultimately improving outcomes for mothers and babies and reducing clinical risk.

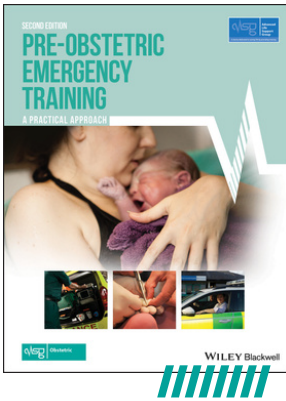
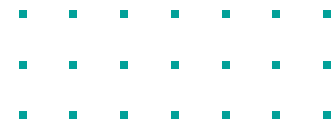
Designed primarily for the pre-hospital environment, POET provides clinicians with a structured approach to assessing and managing a wide range of obstetric emergencies. The integrated online learning and hands-on training enable practitioners to recognise risk factors, understand the anatomical and physiological changes of pregnancy, conduct structured examinations, and determine the appropriate treatment and urgency of transport. By developing rapid assessment skills and effective decision-making across early pregnancy, late pregnancy, and the immediate postnatal period, clinicians are better prepared to deliver safe, timely, and high-quality care when it matters most.

POET helps clinicians to:

- Identify and manage life-threatening obstetric emergencies
- Conduct a structured assessment to guide treatment and transport decisions
- Perform practical procedures needed to save the mother and fetus
- Improve confidence and preparedness in urgent, high-risk obstetric situations
- Enhance emergency response in settings without immediate obstetric support



Who is it for?



Designed for paramedics, doctors, nurses, and midwives, the course strengthens teamwork, standardises care across disciplines, and enhances preparedness in high-risk scenarios, all of which contribute to better outcomes for mothers and babies while reducing clinical risk.

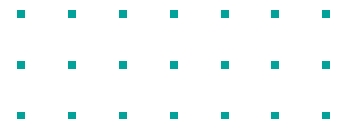
Through a blend of online learning and immersive hands-on simulation, POET enables practitioners to rapidly assess the obstetric patient, understand key physiological changes in pregnancy, and determine the safest and most urgent treatment pathway before transport.



Obstetric emergencies remain a significant global health challenge, with profound implications for maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality. Their management in the pre-hospital setting is critical, especially given the varying resources and infrastructure in different regions worldwide.

Abdulaziz Ali Fayea Asiri et al 2025
The Review of DIABETIC STUDIES Vol. 21 No. S5 2025

What will it cost to run the course?



The list below will help you estimate everything required to run the POET course at your own venue. All costs will vary depending on the centre, as some of the equipment may be available in-house.

Lectures/workshop

- Data projector and computer/laptop/speakers per room
- Flipchart/whiteboard and pens
- PowerPoint presentations from teaching materials folder for lectures and workshops

Simulation equipment list

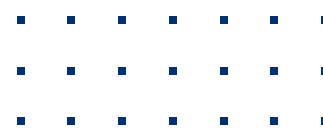
Generic simulation equipment in a pre-hospital bag or rucksack, will be required for each room with additional items in each of the skill stations. Please see separate [equipment list](#) for specific items in each of the various simulation topics.



ALSG fees payable pre course at course registration stage

- POET administration fee (inc access to POET VLE component for four years) - £87.50 per person
- POET course manual - £28.46 per person

Next steps



■ Set up options

There are two models to choose from for setting up the POET course:

1 Provider course self-sufficiency —

ALSG will support you with the course set up and you will be joined on the course and supported by the Working Group and outside faculty at your centre until you have an established team who can deliver the courses independently.

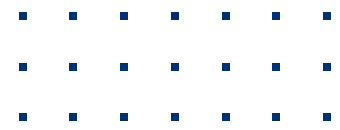
This approach selects candidates with the expectation that they will progress to instructor recommendation. After completing the initial POET course, the same group attends a Generic Instructor Course, advancing them to instructor candidate (IC) status. You can then run an additional POET course, allowing the new ICs to complete their first IC assessment. This streamlined pathway helps you build a faculty base more quickly, enabling provider courses to be delivered locally.

2 Demonstration course

For this method, ALSG will arrange and facilitate a course as requested. Countries will not be able to run future courses unaided by ALSG after a Demonstration course. We would only suggest this approach if you are not certain that the provider course is appropriate or if you do not have an on-going training need or if you need a GIC after running your own provider courses for some time.

If you would like more information or wish to apply for either option, please email enquiries@alsg.org.

Testimonials



“POET has given me the confidence to manage a developing maternity emergency whilst en route to the nearest receiving unit.”

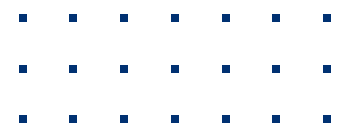


“It’s imperative I spot any early signs of things not going accordingly and be able to take preventative action and this course gave me new insights whilst brushing up on long-standing skills.”



“The scenarios were particularly useful as it allowed us to put knowledge into practice. I also found it really useful working alongside other clinicians from different specialties to see how they would approach the scenarios.”

A case study



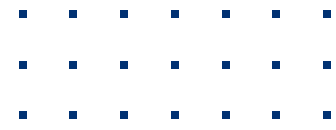
POET in Switzerland

Over the past 15 years, the implementation of Pre Obstetric Emergency Training (POET) in Switzerland has contributed to a significant evolution in the way prehospital professionals' approach obstetric emergencies. These situations are rare, but high-risk, often occurring outside structured maternity settings and without immediate access to specialist support. This creates a critical need for structured, reliable, and transferable competencies in the field.

Before the introduction of POET, there was no standardised framework to guide prehospital obstetric care. Today, seven structured algorithms cover the main life-threatening obstetric emergencies encountered in prehospital settings. These tools, combined with simulation-based training and a structured clinical approach, have helped professionals move from uncertainty to preparedness.

POET has progressively become the reference training standard for prehospital providers in French-speaking Switzerland. Its integration into both initial education and continuing professional development has ensured consistency in practices across services. Participant feedback has remained consistently high over the years, with satisfaction rates averaging 98%, reflecting the strong alignment between the course content and real-world operational needs.

Beyond technical skills, one of the key strengths of POET lies in its contribution to patient safety through a systems approach. By promoting structured decision-making, shared mental models, and interprofessional collaboration, the course supports safer management of complex situations involving both mother and child. It also addresses the cognitive and organisational challenges inherent to out-of-hospital emergencies, where variability and uncertainty are the norm.



POET in Switzerland

Importantly, the Swiss experience suggests that POET is highly transferable across different healthcare systems. The scientific content is robust and evidence-based, while the implementation can be adapted to local regulatory and organisational contexts. This flexibility is essential for broader European adoption. The growing interest from neighbouring countries such as France and Belgium further supports its relevance beyond a single national context.

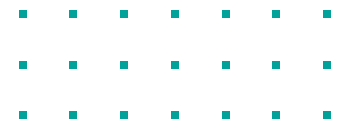
POET does not aim to replace existing obstetric or emergency training programs, but rather to complement them by specifically addressing the gap between hospital-based expertise and prehospital reality. Its focus on early recognition, initial management, and stabilisation before specialist care makes it particularly valuable for services operating in rural areas, decentralised systems, or any setting where immediate obstetric support is not available.

The experience in Switzerland demonstrates that implementing POET is not only a matter of training individuals, but of strengthening an entire system's capacity to respond to rare but critical events. As healthcare systems across Europe continue to face increasing complexity and variability, structured and context-adapted training such as POET represents a pragmatic and scalable solution.

For institutions and emergency services seeking to improve preparedness, patient safety, and interprofessional coordination in obstetric emergencies, POET offers a mature, field-tested, and adaptable framework ready to be deployed at a European level.

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