



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



# Emergency Tracheostomy

## Primary Responder Tracheostomy Safety Train the Trainer

A patient with a tracheostomy is at risk of death or harm if inappropriate or inadequate care is provided. The NCEPOD June 2014 report estimates that *"...it is performed about 12,000 times a year in our hospitals..."*<sup>1</sup> and goes on to state that *"...something that happens 12,000 times a year needs to be a routine straightforward process..."*<sup>1</sup>

In collaboration with the UK National Tracheostomy Safety Project (NTSP and NTSP kids), ALSG presents the Tracheostomy family of courses, including the Primary responder basic course and a train the trainer course.

The purpose of these courses is to improve the skills, knowledge and competencies of healthcare or clinical staff caring for the increasing numbers of patients, paediatric and adult, with either temporary or permanent tracheostomies, with the outcome of improving the safety of these patients through both emergency and routine care.

Both these courses support the resources developed and provided by the NTSP and NTSP kids, namely a guide to caring for patients with tracheostomies, and simple emergency guidelines for dealing with tracheostomy emergencies in both critical care and beyond. More information can be found on the NTSP website.

### Emergency Tracheostomy curriculum and key information

#### Primary Responder course:

Half day course with lectures, skills, simulations and Workshops:

- Introduction
- Background and incidents
- Airway management
- Neck anatomy
- Nursing care
- Emergency simulations
- Algorithms and 'red flags' workshops

#### Train the trainer overview:

Full day course with lectures, skills, simulations and workshops as for the Primary Responder course followed by the train the trainer elements:

- Facilitating discussions
- Teaching skills
- Running low fidelity simulations
- Teaching and learning reconsidered

### Candidate criteria and eligibility

**Primary responder (Trust based)** presents a safe and structured approach to the care of an unwell tracheostomy patient, focusing on recognising the difference between a tracheostomy and a laryngectomy, understanding the two emergency algorithms, knowing how to deal with a tracheostomy 'red flag', and being able to assess and manage a distressed tracheostomy patient. Candidates should be clinical staff caring for patients with tracheostomies.

**Train the trainer: a practical exploration** candidates should be staff who routinely care for tracheostomy patients, who intend to teach tracheostomy care in their workplace.

**Instructors** will have completed the NTSP Train the trainer course.

### Assessment and certification

Continuous assessment takes place on all stations on each of the courses.

### Recertification options

There is no requirement for the Train the Trainers candidates to recertify. Trusts should advise independently on recertification for those who have attended the Primary Responder course.

*"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 and training are fundamentally interlinked."*<sup>3</sup>

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"...all Trusts should have a protocol and mandatory training for tracheostomy care."<sup>1</sup>

"...Patients with tracheostomies must be cared for by staff that have been appropriately trained and are currently competent in tracheostomy care."<sup>2</sup>

### Courses to consider

You may also wish to consider the following courses:

- [MedicALS - Acute Medical Emergencies: The Practical Approach](http://bit.ly/MedicALS_FS) - [http://bit.ly/MedicALS\\_FS](http://bit.ly/MedicALS_FS)

### Resources

ALSG has been working with the NTSP for a number of years in trying to address some of the known problems in tracheostomy care through provision of education. The [NCEPOD report](#) highlights the scale of the problem.

- [Publications](http://bit.ly/ALSG_Pub) - [http://bit.ly/ALSG\\_Pub](http://bit.ly/ALSG_Pub)
- [Testimonials](http://bit.ly/ALSG_Testimonials) - [http://bit.ly/ALSG\\_Testimonials](http://bit.ly/ALSG_Testimonials)

### Important course updates and references

There are currently no updates or references for the Emergency Tracheostomy courses.

### 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 and that 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.



### 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>

<sup>1&2</sup> NCEPOD Study, June 2014: *On the Right Trach? A review of the care received by patients who underwent a tracheostomy*

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

<sup>4</sup> Department of Health, 2013, *Education Outcomes Framework, Domain 1*

