

# What to expect during your PLS course

To complete the course successfully, you must demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to lead a team and manage critically ill or injured children within the first 5 – 10 minutes of care, with the following specifics:

## Pre-course (please allow at least 3 hours for the e-modules and videos)

- Download and read the PLS candidate handbook from the PLS course page
- Complete all 5 compulsory e-modules and the knowledge check
- Watch all the compulsory pre-course skills videos

If you do not complete **all** the above elements before the face-to-face course, you will not be able to attend the course as a full provider, only an observer.

Please note that it is not possible for candidates to be signed off for any skills on their e-portfolios or competency documents by course faculty.

## Infection prevention and control on APLS, APLS R and PLS courses

The PLS course provides the knowledge and skills necessary for recognition and effective treatment and stabilisation of children with life threatening emergencies, using a structured, sequential approach.

In addition, PLS aims to teach and assess the acquisition and use of technical skills. This is done within the e-modules, online skills videos and the 1-day face-to-face course.

In the videos and the face-to-face course, skills are demonstrated and practised within a training environment and without the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures such as aseptic fields.

**However, ALSG recommends that in clinical practice clinicians should follow local and national IPC guidelines and practices at all times.**

## During the face-to-face course

- Please wear comfortable casual clothes throughout the face-to-face course.
- Refer to the course programme on the course page on-line (or the ones sent to you by the course centre) for start and finish times.
- Attend all sessions. Please make sure that you arrive in good time and allow extra time for rush hour traffic and parking. The course starts at the scheduled time even if some candidates have not yet arrived.

**PLS is a continually assessed course with no test or assessment at the end of the day.**

Instead, you will be assessed on your practical resuscitation skills in the skill stations and also in the simulations throughout the course. In the simulation stations you will also be assessed and graded by the instructors in the room on your ability to participate in a paediatric emergency as an effective team leader and effective team member.

The assessment criteria are listed overleaf.

When you are team leader you are assessed on the following criteria:

- Performs a systematic structured ABC(DE) assessment
- Manages ABC effectively and initiates BLS and other key treatment points as required
- Recognises signs of deterioration and escalates where appropriate
- Leads the team effectively
- Completes a clear and succinct SBAR handover

As team member in the simulation, the criteria include:

- Undertakes elements of the ABC(DE) assessment as instructed by the team leader

As team leader or member in the simulation, the criteria include:

- Carries out skills safely
- Clear closed loop communication
- Respect
- Flexibility
- Assertiveness
- Ability to listen

In each of the 4 areas listed above you will be graded as one of the following:

- **meets course expectations**
- **not quite there yet**
- **concerns**
- DNA – did not attend

If you are graded as '**not quite there yet**' or '**concerns**' this will be made clear to you before the end of the session, and you will be given the opportunity to remediate this during the course through continuous assessment.

At the end of the PLS course there are 5 potential outcomes:

	Course Outcome
<b>All your scores 'meet course expectations'</b> by the end of the course	<b>Full course pass</b>
<b>'Did Not Attend'</b> on any sessions	<b>Must attend those sessions on another course within 6 months</b> to pass the course.
<b>One score remaining of 'not quite there yet'</b> for team leading a simulation at the end of the course despite further opportunities as part of continuous assessment throughout the course. It is not possible to remediate any of the <b>skills</b> after the course.	<b>Redo element on a future course within 6 months</b> If successful after remediation = full course pass. If unsuccessful on remediation = repeat full course.
<b>One score remaining of 'not quite there yet' for skills</b> at the end of the course despite further opportunities as part of continuous assessment throughout the course. It is not possible to remediate any of the <b>skills</b> after the course.	<b>Unsuccessful</b> = you will need to repeat full course.
<b>Two or more scores remaining of 'not quite there yet'</b> at the end of the course despite further opportunities as part of continuous assessment throughout the course. This can be either team leading a simulation or a skill.	<b>Unsuccessful</b> = you will need to repeat full course.
<b>Any remaining scores of 'concerns'</b> at the end of the course despite further opportunities as part of continuous assessment throughout the course and review by the director Additionally in this situation the course director and faculty must consider whether your performance raises concerns about patient safety. This will be discussed with you at the end of the course.	<b>Unsuccessful</b> = you will need to repeat full course.