What to expect during your APLS 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 hour of care, with the following specifics:

Pre-course (please allow at least 1 full day for the e-modules and videos)

- Read the manual
- Complete all 11 compulsory e-modules
- 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.

You should also note that although basic paediatric resuscitation skills are a part of the course, it is intended that you already have these skills and build upon them during the course. We recommend that you access training before the course within your own setting if needed to ensure you are competent in basic paediatric resuscitation skills. We also recommend that junior clinicians attend a one-day PLS (pILS or local equivalent) before attending an APLS course. Doctors and nurses who have trained overseas and have experience of a different healthcare system will also benefit from attending a PLS course before hand to familiarise themselves with simulation and with the culture of resuscitation courses.

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 APLS 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, APLS aims to teach and assess the acquisition and use of technical skills. This is done within the APLS 7e manual, the e-modules, online skills videos and the 2-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.

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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.

In all 4 simulation stations you will be assessed and graded by the instructors in the room.

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

- Prepares the team members with appropriate instructions
- Ensures thorough ABCDE assessment
- Demonstrates effective team leadership with full situational awareness
- Uses closed loop communication with team members
- Manages the overall care of a child who is seriously ill, injured or in cardiorespiratory arrest and directs appropriate resuscitation
- Escalates where appropriate
- Completes a clear SBAR on handover of the patient

As team member in the simulation, the criteria include:

- Demonstrates effective followership
- Uses closed loop communication with team leader and other team members
- Accurately performs skills
- Undertakes elements of the ABCDE assessment as instructed by the team leader

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.

- If you require further assessment opportunities for a skill such as safe defibrillation or insertion of an oropharyngeal airway, this will be organised for you during subsequent simulations when you are a team member
- If you require remediation as a team member this will be during subsequent simulations when you are a team member
- If you require remediation as a team leader, you will be offered an opportunity to lead a further simulation in the same category on the course, usually during the final simulation session.

Please note that only one scenario can be remediated within the 2 days of the course as a team leader. If you have more than one scenario graded as **'not quite there yet'** or **'concerns'**, the course director and/or your mentor will discuss your options with you.

All the skills including BLS, defibrillation and airway management are continuously assessed in the simulations throughout the course.

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

	Course Outcome
All your scores 'meet course expectations' by the end of the course	**Full course pass**
'Did Not Attend' on any sessions	**Must attend those sessions on another course within 6 months** to pass the course.
One score remaining of 'not quite there yet' 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 technical skill.	**Redo element on a future course within 6 months** If successful after remediation = full course pass. If unsuccessful on remediation = repeat full course.
Two or more scores remaining of 'not quite there yet' 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.	**Unsuccessful** = you will need to repeat full course.
Any remaining scores of 'concerns' 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.	**Unsuccessful** = you will need to repeat full course.

Instructor potential

During the APLS course, the faculty will also be looking for candidates who show instructor potential.
The criteria used for this assessment are as follows:

1. clinical credibility
2. communication skills
3. enthusiasm for course
4. interaction / supportive of other members
5. being a good team member

Please note that not all APLS candidates are eligible to be an APLS instructor. To be considered you must be: doctor working at CT3/ST3 level on a tier two rota or above, nurse (band 6 and above), clinical practitioner (ECP/ACP/ANP/CCP), nurse consultant or a resuscitation trainer.

Candidates from other healthcare professional groups may be eligible dependent on their experience if they are regularly working in a clinical environment where they are managing paediatric emergencies.

These recommendations are decided by the whole faculty group during the final faculty meeting.

Candidates who are recommended will be contacted following the course.