



## NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

### **Trauma Team Training: A cross-walk of the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), Rural Trauma Team Development Course (RTTDC), the Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) Program, and the Basic Life Support (BLS)**

#### **Overview**

The purpose of this cross-walk is to provide State Offices of Rural Health (SORHs) and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) with an overview of each course so they can determine which courses will best meet the needs for trauma training in their hospital and state.

While Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) remains the gold standard for personnel working on a daily basis in high volume, high acuity trauma centers, there are other courses emerging that hold promise in providing educational support for rural and non-urban emergency department practices.

#### **Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)**

<http://www.facs.org/trauma/atls/program.html>

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) and its Committee on Trauma (COT) have developed the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Program for doctors; a systematic, concise training for the early care of trauma patients. The ATLS Program provides participants with a safe, reliable method for immediate management of the injured patient and the basic knowledge necessary to:

1. Access the patient's condition rapidly and accurately.
2. Resuscitate and stabilize the patient according to priority.
3. Determine if the patient's needs exceed a facility's capacity.
4. Arrange appropriately for the patient's inter-hospital transfer (who, what, when, and how).
5. Assure that optimum care is provided and that the level of care does not deteriorate at any point during the evaluation, resuscitation, or transfer process.

For doctors who infrequently treat trauma, the ATLS course provides an easily remembered method for evaluating and treating the victim of a traumatic event. For those doctors who treat traumatic disease on a frequent basis, the ATLS course provides a scaffold for evaluation, treatment, education, and quality assurance- in

short, a system of trauma care that is measurable, reproducible, and comprehensive.

### **Rural Trauma Team Development Course (RTTDC)**

<http://www.facs.org/trauma/rttdc/rttdcinfo.html>

The Rural Trauma Team Development Course (RTTDC), has been developed by the ad hoc Rural Trauma committee of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma (COT) to help rural hospitals with development of their trauma teams. It is hoped the course will improve the quality of care in their community by developing a timely, organized, and rational response to the care of the trauma patient and a team approach that addresses the common problems in the initial assessment and stabilization of the injured. It is the purpose of RTTDC to increase the efficiency of resource utilization and improve the level of care provided to the injured patient in the rural environment.

The course objectives are as follows:

- Describe components of their state, regional, and local trauma system as it currently exists.
- Identify components of an effective trauma system.
- Describe what is necessary to develop a rural trauma team.
- Describe what is necessary to prepare for their local hospital's treatment of the critically injured trauma patient.
- Outline the components of the Primary Survey, Decision for Transfer to Definitive Care, and Secondary Survey.
- Demonstrate the concepts of the Primary Survey, Decision for Transfer to Definitive Care, and Secondary Survey as applied in simulated injured patient scenarios.

### **Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) Program**

[www.calsprogram.org](http://www.calsprogram.org)

The Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) Program is an educational program designed specifically for rural health providers with limited resources. The CALS Program teaches participants to anticipate, recognize and treat life-threatening emergencies. Using the CALS Universal Approach, participants develop team skills as they work through a variety of real life scenarios.

Since 1996, over 5,000 health care providers in 80 rural Minnesota communities have taken the course, and the program has been credited for improving emergency health care delivery and even saving lives of countless patients in rural communities.

The CALS program has received Flex Grant Funding from the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care to help Critical Access Hospitals obtain Comprehensive Advanced Life Support Course (CALS) education. These funds subsidize:

- The registration fees for the CALS Provider Course
- The registration fees for the CALS Benchmark Lab.

Individuals employed by or working in a Minnesota Critical Access Hospital will be credited with this subsidy at the time of registration for either the CALS Provider Course or the CALS Benchmark Lab.

- Funds will be awarded based on the provider eligibility and completion of the benchmark lab and/or the CALS Course up to the point that the funds are exhausted.

View the report, [CALS - Central Minnesota Site Visit 2003](#) (PDF: 205KB/4 pages): a summary of a Critical Access Hospital site visit. The purpose of the site visit was to obtain information about the impact of CALS training on practice patterns and training requirements and, to the extent possible, health care outcomes.

### **Basic Life Support (BLS) Healthcare Provider Course**

The BLS Healthcare Provider Course is designed to provide a wide variety of healthcare professionals the ability to recognize several life-threatening emergencies, provide CPR, use an AED, and relieve choking in a safe, timely and effective manner. The course is intended for certified or noncertified, licensed or non-licensed healthcare professionals.

	<b>ATLS</b>	<b>RTTCD</b>	<b>CALS</b>	<b>BLS</b>
<b>Audience</b>	Designed for physicians who care for injured patients	Any staff leading or involved in the trauma team	Any health care providers providing resuscitation	Healthcare providers such as physicians, nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, physician's assistants, residents or fellows, or medical or nursing students in training, aides, medical or nursing assistants, police officers, and other allied health personnel.
<b>Credits</b>	The American College of Surgeons designates this educational activity for a maximum of * AMA	Contact your state for course credit information: (312) 202-5380	CALS 2-day provider course is acceptable for up to 16.5 prescribed credit hours by the AAFP. Nurses may receive 19.5 CEUs for the	Varies depending on state and program.

	<p><i>PRA Category 1 Credits™.</i> Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.</p> <p>*The maximum number of credits varies depending on the type of ATLS course.</p>		classroom portion and 8 CEUs for the Benchmark Lab.	
<b>Length of Course</b>	<p>Student Course: 19 hours</p> <p>Student Refresher Course: ½ day or 1-day format</p>	<p>The course is designed to be given either in one day of approximately eight hours or can be given in four separate modules of 1.5–2 hours each or in a combination of modules. The rural hospital, in conjunction with the Course Director and Coordinator, will decide how the course is to be presented.</p>	<p>CALS is a three-part program consisting of (1) Home study (2) Provider Course – which is a two-day course (16.5 hours; and (3) Benchmark Skills Lab – this application lab is a day-long (8 hours) experience</p>	<p>Approximately 4 ½ hours</p>

<b>Pre-requisite</b>	Must be a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner responsible for care of trauma patient	Core member of the rural hospital trauma team	Previously attended at least one advanced life support course	None
<b>Contact</b>	ATLS Office (312) 202-5160 <a href="mailto:atls@facs.org">atls@facs.org</a> .	Trauma Office Programs Office (312) 202-5380 <a href="mailto:bblackwood@facs.org">bblackwood@facs.org</a>	<b>To register for or sponsor a CALS course</b> contact Chris Melchior at (612) 624-7123. <b>To register for a CALS Benchmark Lab</b> contact Paula Chambers at Hennepin County Medical Center at (612) 873-8712	American Heart Association <a href="mailto:Review.personal.info@heart.org">Review.personal.info@heart.org</a> 1-800-AHA-USA1