

## Comparison: ITLS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition and PHTLS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Texts

### Overview

International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) is a global organization dedicated to preventing death and disability from trauma through education and emergency care. ITLS educates emergency personnel to provide optimal care for the trauma patient. A variety of targeted, comprehensive education programs focused on the pre-hospital care of trauma patients are available to meet the requirements of all levels and backgrounds of pre-hospital emergency personnel internationally, including ITLS Basic, Advanced, Pediatric, Military, and Access courses.

ITLS's tradition of excellence is available in a variety of formats to enable different styles of learners to benefit. Course Smart eTextbooks are an exciting new choice for learners. eBook versions, including Kindle and Nook, are available through Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and other retail outlets.

ITLS also offers eTrauma, an online version of the didactic portion of the Provider course that provides an invaluable option for the busy clinician. Upon completion of eTrauma, the learner receives 8 hours of CECBEMS credit. The learner may then choose to gain ITLS certification by successfully completing an ITLS Completer Course that features 8 hours of hands-on skill station demonstration, practice, and testing plus the written exam.

ITLS utilizes basic and advanced pre- and post-test written evaluations to objectively evaluate students' cognitive knowledge. Each written test is 50 multiple-choice questions.

ITLS focuses on the key components of excellent trauma care. ITLS training is available in over 95 chapters and training centers around the world. According to the PHTLS website, there are PHTLS programs in 54 countries in addition to the United States and Canada.

Although both have recognized the need for e-learning, dedicated to busy clinicians, ITLS has chosen to focus on evidence-based, concise methods designed to optimize pre-hospital care. The ITLS text is direct, clear and emphasizes a standardized approach to care based on current evidence.

ITLS is the smart choice for trauma training because it is practical, dynamic, flexible, team centered, challenging, and grounded in emergency medicine. It also provides training at every level for emergency care providers internationally.



*Improving Trauma Care Worldwide*

## Comparison: ITLS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition and PHTLS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Texts

Course/Administrative Comparison	ITLS	PHTLS
Endorsed by the American College of Emergency Physicians.	●	
Endorsed by the American College of Surgeons.		●
Objectively measures assessment and management skills for the care of the critical multi-trauma patient.	●	
Contains core and supplemental content, and allows for customization (e.g. course schedule modifications) to address regional and educational needs.	●	
Mandates involvement of the course medical director and strongly encourages on-site medical director presence.	●	●
Emphasizes teamwork - from scene to surgery.	●	
Provides a well-structured assessment and priority plan. The Primary Survey consists of Scene Survey, General Impression (which includes identification and initial management of significant external bleeding), Initial Assessment, and a Focused or Rapid Trauma Survey, designed to identify and address immediate life-threatening conditions and indicate critical interventions that are practical and easy to follow by all levels of EMS personnel. The identification of "Load and Go" conditions ensures valuable time is not wasted at the scene.	●	
The patient assessment algorithm was used as the foundation methodology of the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Standard Curriculum taught in Paramedic, AEMT, EMT and Emergency Medical Responder programs.	●	
Online resources from Pearson Education that include full Glossary, flash cards for each chapter (excluding skills chapters), and four Appendices: Additional Skills; Role of the Medical Helicopter; Tactical EMS; and Trauma Scoring in the Prehospital Care Setting.	●	

## Comparison: ITLS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition and PHTLS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Texts

Course/Administrative Comparison	ITLS	PHTLS
Offers a dedicated Pediatric course and text that provides in-depth assessment and management tools for the injured pediatric patient.	●	
Offers a specialized Access course and text that provides knowledge and skills for access using hand tools to extricate trauma patients entrapped in motor vehicle collisions.	●	
Provides a single training package for all levels of pre-hospital trauma care providers in 8th edition.		●
Uses Primary Survey of ATLS (A-B-C-D-E), but not including a "Rapid Trauma Survey" characteristic of ITLS and the US National Standard Curriculum, relying instead on information concerning the kinematics of the injury to glean possible causes of respiratory compromise, shock and altered mental status.		●
Primary Survey utilizes the CABC (Control life-threatening bleeding, Airway, Breathing & Circulation) approach emphasizing immediate bleeding control, if present.	●	
Emphasizes the Primary Survey should be completed in less than 2 minutes.	●	
Stresses the importance of an Ongoing Exam.	●	
Stresses kinematics as a key component in identifying possible injuries, rather than a detailed search (Rapid Trauma Survey).		●
Skills video in DVD format.		●
Has less emphasis on the decision of when to utilize special extrication.		●
Cost comparison calculator is available to analyze costs of eTrauma to a traditional in-person course	●	
Normal saline is the IV fluid of choice for resuscitation in shock, except for burns.	●	
Separate pre- and post-tests for Basic and Advanced EMS providers and all tests have 50 multiple-choice questions.	●	

## Comparison: ITLS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition and PHTLS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Texts

Text Comparison	ITLS	PHTLS
Based on evidence and best practices; position paper referenced.	●	●
Course-focused text that emphasizes the need to know and understand and minimizes the “nice-to-know” information.	●	
Includes supportive skills chapters for airway, shock, spinal trauma, and thoracic trauma.	●	
Expanded chapter on scene assessment, including CDC Trauma Triage Guidelines and SALT triage.	●	
Introduction chapter contains history of PHTLS: Past, Present and Future, and advice on reading EMS literature.		●
Updated definitions and statistics in appropriate chapters.	●	●
Expanded prolonged transport considerations with most chapters.		●
Contains lengthy anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology sections.		●
Outlines key terms with objectives of each chapter, which are explained on appropriate pages.	●	
Identifies key messages in each chapter that are clearly highlighted in easily identified boxes called Pearls.	●	
Follows each core chapter with a patient management skills chapter to reinforce learning.	●	
Supplements the core trauma knowledge base with supporting chapters on Geriatric Trauma, Trauma in Pregnancy, The Impaired Patient, Trauma Arrest, and Standard Precautions and Transmissions-Based Precautions.	●	
Improved traumatic brain injury content.	●	●
Special Considerations include chapters on Environmental Trauma, Civilian Tactical EMS, and Wilderness Trauma.		●
A separate division introduced with chapters on Disaster Management, Explosions and Weapons of Mass Destruction.		●

## Comparison: ITLS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition and PHTLS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Texts

Text Comparison	ITLS	PHTLS
Includes reference to the Hartford Consensus II document that indicates EMS should enter the scene of a suspected mass shooting with law enforcement protection	●	
Hemorrhagic shock has been updated with the experience of the military during the recent conflicts.	●	
The use of tourniquets hemostatic agents and tranexamic acid (TXA) has been added.	●	
Insertion of an IO needle using the EZ-IO and FASTResponder system is described in detail.	●	
"What's New" section outlines updates and additions to the previous edition.	●	
Distinguishes between Rapid Extrication and Emergency Rescue.	●	
Describes life-threatening thoracic injuries as the "Deadly Dozen."	●	
Capnography is stressed as the standard for confirming and monitoring the position of the endotracheal tube, supraglottic airways and continuous assessment of ventilatory and shock status.	●	
Discussion on evaluating "lactate levels" in shock.	●	
Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma (FAST) exams are recommended for the pre-hospital setting.	●	
Pelvic binders indicated for pre-hospital treatment of an unstable pelvis.	●	
One manual for both basic and advanced EMS providers.	●	●
Specialized texts for Pediatric ITLS and Access.	●	
Pediatric trauma appears only as a chapter in the text.		●
Custom stand-alone military edition text, edited by a military surgeon with input and review received from members of the international community. The scenarios are military based and focus on the unique characteristics of the military environment.	●	
8th Edition Military edition reflects specific traumatic situations faced by military pre-hospital providers.		●