

Comparison: ITLS Provider and Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC)

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 emergency trauma care 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 (vehicle extrication) courses.

ITLS's tradition of excellence is available in a variety of formats to enable different styles of learners to benefit. The 8th edition ITLS Provider manual is available as a Course Smart eTextbooks for rental, or as eBook versions, including Kindle and Nook, 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 CAPCE 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 105 chapters and training centres in more than 40 countries around the world.

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

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Course/Administrative Comparison	ITLS	TNCC
Endorsed by the American College of Emergency Physicians.	●	
Endorsed and authored by the Emergency Nurses Association.		●
Accredited to provide continuing education credit to EMS personnel by Commission on Accreditation of Pre-Hospital Continuing Education (CAPCE) [formerly CECBEMS]	●	
Accredited to provide continuing education credit to nurses by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.		●
Objectively measures assessment and management skills for the care of the critical multi-trauma patient.	●	●
Establishes a standardized body of trauma nursing knowledge to improve the care of all trauma patients.		●
Accepted internationally as the standard training course for pre-hospital trauma care.	●	
Used as essential curricula in many paramedic, EMT and first responder training programs.	●	
Recognized as the premier course for hospitals and trauma centers worldwide.		●
Intended audience: any health care provider, from physicians to all levels of nurses to paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and first responders, working in the pre-hospital or out-of-hospital setting. Provides the necessary knowledge and skills for trauma assessment, intervention and preparation for transfer to a higher level care.	●	
Intended audience: novice and experienced nurses receiving trauma patients while working in a health care setting with appropriate resources and support. Provides the basic trauma assessment skills in order to be prepared to work in an Emergency Department setting.		●
Two-day course format that includes didactic lectures and skill stations	●	●
Contains core and supplemental content.	●	●
Allows for customization (e.g. course schedule modifications) to address regional and educational needs.	●	●

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Six hands-on psychomotor skills stations: Assessment Skills; Airway Skills; Thoracic Trauma Skills (includes needle decompression and open pneumothorax management); Vascular Access Skills (includes peripheral IV and intraosseous); Spine Management Skills (includes helmet removal, and spine board and KED use); and Extremity Trauma Skills (includes tourniquet, traction splint and hemostatic agent use).	●	
Three hands-on psychomotor skills stations: Trauma Nursing Process; Airway and Ventilation (including chest drainage management); and Trauma Interventions (including pediatric trauma, tourniquet application, helmet removal, and spine board application)		●
Mandates involvement of the course medical director (physician) and strongly encourages on-site medical director presence.	●	
Mandates immediate in-person availability of the course director (nurse) during the entire course to assist with problems.		●
Emphasizes teamwork.	●	●
Provides a well-structured assessment and priority plan utilizing the Primary and Secondary Survey.	●	●
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.	●	

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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.	●	
Includes 5 online modules with live links to additional information and a complete case study process that takes the learner through an entire sequence of care. Modules include: Biomechanics, Kinematics and Mechanism of Injury and Special Populations: The Pregnant Trauma Patient, The Older Adult Patient, The Bariatric Trauma Patient & The Interpersonal Violence Trauma Patient.		●
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.	●	
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.	●	●
Normal saline is the IV fluid of choice for resuscitation in shock, except for burns.	●	●

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Text Comparison	ITLS	TNCC
Based on evidence and best practices; position paper referenced.	●	●
Covers various topics within 16 knowledge-based chapters with 6 additional skill-based chapters (see Appendix 1 for complete listing).	●	
Covers various topics in 24 chapters (see Appendix 1 for complete listing).		●
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.	●	
Updated definitions and statistics in appropriate chapters.	●	●
Contains dedicated chapter on epidemiology.		●
Contains dedicated chapter on biomechanics, kinematics, and mechanisms of injury.		●
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.	●	
Includes glossary of key terms.		●
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.	●	
Supplements the core trauma knowledge base with supporting chapters on the Pregnant Trauma Patient, the Pediatric Trauma Patient, the Older Adult Trauma Patient, the Interpersonal Violence Trauma Patient, Psychosocial Aspects of Trauma Care, Disaster Management, Transition of Care for the Trauma Patient, and Post Resuscitation Care in the Emergency Department		●
Improved traumatic brain injury content.	●	●

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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.	●	
Covers the use of IO needs but does not reference trade names or recommend specific products.		●
"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.	●	●
Separate, specialized text for pediatric trauma.	●	●
Separate, specialized text for vehicle extrication, called Access.	●	
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.	●	

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Appendix 1

TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS

ITLS 8 th Edition Manual	TNCC 7 th Edition Manual
Scene Size-up	Trauma Nursing and the Trauma Nursing Core Course
Trauma Assessment and Management	Teamwork and Trauma Care
Assessment Skills	Epidemiology
Airway Management	Biomechanics, Kinematics, and Mechanisms of Injury
Airway Skills	Initial Assessment
Thoracic Trauma	Airway and Ventilation
Thoracic Trauma Skills	Shock
Shock	Pain
Vascular access Skills	Brain, Cranial, and Maxillofacial Trauma
Head Trauma	Ocular Trauma
Spinal Trauma	Thoracic and Neck Trauma
Spine Management Skills	Abdominal and Pelvic Trauma
Abdominal Trauma	Spinal Cord and Vertebral Column Trauma
Extremity Trauma	Musculoskeletal Trauma
Extremity Trauma Skills	Surface and Burn Trauma
Burns	Special Populations: The Pregnant Trauma Patient
Pediatric Trauma	Special Populations: The Pediatric Trauma Patient
Geriatric Trauma	Special Populations: The Older Adult Trauma Patient
Trauma in Pregnancy	Special Populations: The Bariatric Trauma Patient
The Impaired Patient	Special Populations: The Interpersonal Violence Trauma Patient
Trauma Arrest	Psychosocial Aspects of Trauma Care
Standard Precautions	Disaster Management
	Transition of Care for the Trauma Patient
	Post Resuscitation Care in the Emergency Department

SKILL STATIONS

ITLS 8 th Edition	TNCC 7 th Edition
Assessment Skills (Station taught twice)	Trauma Nursing Process
Airway Skills	Airway and Ventilation
Thoracic Trauma Skills	Trauma Interventions
Vascular Access Skills	
Spine Management Skills	
Extremity Trauma Skills	



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