



Guideline: Advanced Life Support Level 2 – Guide for HHSs

Overview

- General Practitioners working in rural and remote facilities are required to have current training in Advanced Life Support Level 2 (ALS2). Core competencies included in an ALS2¹ course are:
 - Recognition, assessment and management of the deteriorating patient using a structured ABCDE approach (aiming to prevent cardiac arrest).
 - Treat cardiac and/or respiratory arrest, including manual defibrillation.
 - Management of life-threatening arrhythmias.
 - Preparing and planning for post resuscitation care.
 - Care for the deteriorating patient or patient in cardiac and/or respiratory arrest in special circumstances such as asthma, anaphylaxis, and pregnancy.
 - Lead a team, work as a team member, and use structured communication skills including giving an effective handover.
 - Consideration for end of life decision making.
- The HHS's Executive Director of Medical Service may determine that an individual practitioner is exempt from the ALS2 requirement, for example practitioners providing care only to residents of residential aged care facilities.
- Evidence of current ALS2 skills is required with all new and renewal credentialing applications presented before the Committee.
- Many organisations in Australia run the Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) ALS2 course. These are called Accredited Course Centres². The certificate issued by these centres will be an official ARC certificate.
- Evidence may be in the form of a course certificate or where the full course name is listed on a college CPD statement.
- Recertification in ALS2 varies between courses. However, for the purposes of credentialing for the RRHHS Medical and Dental Credentialing and SoCP Committee, each ALS2 will be valid for three years from the date of completion.
- It is recommended that current ALS2 skills be checked prior to engaging a locum general practitioner.

¹ Australian Resuscitation Council, Advanced Life Support Level 2. <https://resus.org.au/courses/#als2>

² Australian Resuscitation Council, Accredited Course Centres. <https://resus.org.au/courses/accredited-course-centres/>

Process

- When compiling a PDF application pack, ALS2 evidence is inserted after CPD and before qualifications.
- The Committee agenda should include the course name (can be a recognised acronym) and month and year the course was completed. For example, *REST Jun 2017*, or *Advanced Remote Emergency Care Course (ALS2 equivalent) Nov 2018*.
- If a practitioner does not have evidence of current ALS2 skills, write “*No evidence of current ALS2*” in the agenda.
- If a practitioner is exempt from ALS2, this will be noted in the agenda stating the reason for the exemption.
- If a practitioner does not have current ALS2 certification, the Committee may either
 - hold the application in abeyance (held over) until an ALS2 has been completed
OR
 - impose a condition on SoCP which requires the practitioner to complete an ALS2 within a defined timeframe
- If a practitioner does not have current ALS2 certificate but has provided an invoice, receipt or confirmation of a future ALS2 course booking, the Committee may impose a condition that evidence of completion of the course must be submitted as soon as possible after the course concludes.
- If an application is held in abeyance, the applicant should be notified in writing giving reasons why and what action is required for the application to be reconsidered.
- If a condition is imposed, the minutes and SoCP letter must include details of the condition including a defined timeframe for completion. For example; the standard condition wording may be “*Completion of an Advanced Life Support Level 2 (ALS2) or equivalent course within three (3) months*”.
- When a practitioner with an ALS2 condition completes an appropriate course, a copy of the course certificate along with the practitioner’s current SoCP and current AHPRA registration details should be tabled at the next Credentialing Committee meeting.
- The ALS2 condition review is considered in the agenda under the section “Condition and Supervision Reviews”.
- A hard copy of the course certificate and current AHPRA registration details should be placed on the practitioner’s hard copy file.
- If the Committee agrees to remove the condition, then a new SoCP letter, with the same expiry date as previously approved, is issued. The opening paragraph of the letter will state that the condition regarding ALS has been removed, for example “*I am pleased to advise that the condition requiring the completion of an Advanced Life Support Level 2 (or equivalent) course has been reviewed and removed from your scope of clinical practice (SoCP) as detailed below*”

- HHSs should run a report from the credentialing database (CHaD) at least once a month to check for SoCPs with the ALS2 condition and follow up with the practitioner to ensure an ALS course is completed within the required time frame.
- The Committee may temporarily limit or suspend a practitioner's SoCP for failing to meet the ALS2 condition.

ALS Courses

- Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) ALS2:
 - Courses are provided by Accredited Course Centres located in metropolitan and rural areas across Australia.
 - ARC Accredited Course Centres will display the ARC Logo and issue ARC ALS2 certificates.
 - [Register of ARC ALS2 Accredited Course Centres](#)
 - [ARC course dates for all States and Territories](#)
- The following courses are recognised by the Credentialing Committee as having equivalent content to ALS2:
 - Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) - [Emergency Management of Anaesthetic Crises \(EMAC\)](#)
 - Australian College of Critical Care Nurses (ACCCN) - [Advance Life Support Program](#)
 - Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) - [Rural Emergency Skills Training \(REST\)](#)
 - Clinical Skills Development Centre – [Advanced Life Support](#)
 - CRANApus:
 - [Advanced Life Support \(ALS\)](#)
 - [Advanced Remote Emergency Care Course \(AREC\)](#)
 - Critical Care Education Services - [Basic & Advanced Life Support](#)
 - Emergency Life Support - [Emergency Life Support Course](#)
 - Health Workforce Queensland - [Rural Emergency Medicine Workshop](#)
 - HealthCare Training Service (HCTS) – [Advanced Life Support Course](#)
 - Health ED Professionals Pty Ltd – [Advanced Life Support Level 2](#) (no longer providing to Medical Practitioners)
 - Hunter New England Local Health District - [Simulation Enhanced Advanced Life Support \(SEALS\)](#)
 - LearnEM:

- [Rural Emergency Skills Program \(RESP\)](#)
- [Critical Care, Resuscitation, Advanced Life Support, Simulation and Skills Training \(CRASH\)](#)
- New Zealand Resuscitation Council – [CORE Advanced](#)
- Princess Alexandra Hospital, Metro South Hospital and Health Service – Advanced Life Support
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) - [Clinical Emergency Management Program – Advanced \(CEMP\)](#)
- Rural Doctors Workforce Agency (RDWA) – [Rural Emergency Skills Program \(RESP\)](#)
- Rural Health West - [Rural Emergency Assessment Clinical Training \(REACT\)](#)
- Saint John, New Zealand - [Primary Response in Medical Emergencies \(PRIME\)](#)
- South West Hospital and Health Service – [Advanced Life Support](#)
- The following courses are recognised as a **refresher course for ALS2 or equivalent**. The refresher course must be completed prior to the expiry of ALS2 or equivalent certification:
 - Australian Resuscitation Council - [ALS Provider Recertification Course](#)
 - HealthCare Training Service – [Advanced Life Support Recertification and Paediatric BLS & ALS Recertification](#) to be completed
 - LearnEM – [Advanced Life Support 2: Masterclass](#)