

Introduction to ITLS

The first prehospital trauma course developed, *Basic Trauma Life Support* was introduced in August of 1982. Nevada's first course was offered in March of 1990. BTLT began as a local project of the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. ITLS has become internationally accepted as the training course for pre-hospital trauma care, hence the name change to ITLS. The original ITLS course was modeled after the *Advanced Trauma Life Support* course (for physicians) so that the surgeon, emergency physician, trauma nurse, and EMT would think and act along similar lines. The courses differs in many respects because the pre-hospital situation differs markedly from the hospital

International Trauma Life Support is endorsed by the American College of Emergency Physicians and the National Association of EMS Physicians. The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians recognizes the course for 16 hours credit for continuing education for all levels of EMT's. Sixteen hours of CEU's is pending before the Nevada State Board of Nursing.

This course is designed for the advanced EMT, paramedic, and trauma nurse who must initially evaluate and stabilize the trauma patient. Since this is a critical time in the management of these patients, this course is intended to teach the skills necessary for rapid assessments, resuscitation, packaging, and transport. It also stresses those conditions which cannot be stabilized in the field and thus require immediate transport. It is recognized that there is more than one acceptable way to manage most situations, and the procedures described here may be modified by your medical director. You should have your Medical Director go over the material and give you advice as to how the procedures are to be done in your area. Modification of techniques is allowed in the teaching of this course!

The primary objectives of the course are to teach you the correct sequence of evaluation and the techniques of resuscitation and packaging of the patient. You will be given enough practical training to perform these drills rapidly and efficiently, thus giving your patient the greatest chance of arriving at the emergency department in time for definitive care to be lifesaving.

Included in your packet are a schedule, student guide, and a pretest. If you should have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your course coordinator or any of the listed instructors, or the State Coordinator.

Sincerely,

John Mohler, RN
ITLS of Nevada
State Coordinator
180 Virgil Dr.
Sparks, Nevada 89436

Student's guide to ITLS

How to prepare:

The ITLS course is an intensive, demanding experience that requires preparation in advance of the actual course. You should begin studying the book no less than two weeks before the course. The actual course is designed not to tell you, but rather to show you and allow you to practice managing trauma patients. If properly prepared, you will find this course to be the most enjoyable you have ever taken.

The first 23 chapters are essential and should be studied thoroughly in the weeks preceding the course. You will be tested on this material. There is not enough time in two days to learn the written material, and the skills, and imprint the ITLS patient assessment method. The appendix contains important chapters, but due to time constraints they are not included in the course. You will not be tested on the chapters in the appendix.

The appendix contains some optional skills. If any optional skills are to be taught in the course, you will be notified in advance so that you may study them.

What to wear:

ITLS is a practical course that stresses hands-on teaching. You should wear comfortable clothes that you do not mind getting dirty. Blue jeans and sweatshirts are perfect.

Grades:

If you are taking a certified course, you will have to take a written exam and a practical test. The practical test is patient assessment. You will not be required to test on each of the skills taught in the skill stations; however, you will be required to use those skills correctly on the management of your simulated patients. The written test is composed of 50 questions and requires a grade of at least 74% to pass. Patient assessment is a subjective exam, and you are graded on your overall management of the problem. Some students with superior performance may be asked to become instructor candidates. A student with a score of 86% or higher on the written exam and "instructor potential" on the practical exam is required to be considered for instructor candidate status.