

1. SERBIAN RESUSCITATION COUNCIL PREHOSPITAL ADVANCED TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT COURSE

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Serbian Resuscitation Council's (SerRC) PHATLS course is designed for healthcare professionals who are not going to perform surgical procedures during pre-hospital patient care and will not perform any surgical interventions during pre-hospital care period.

PHATLS is suitable for doctors, nurses and paramedics and all healthcare professionals who should be trained to gain knowledge, practical skills and non-surgical procedures with traumatized patients in pre-hospital environment, and to apply adequate stabilization procedures of vital parameters with the aim to achieve safe transport to the relevant hospital and/or trauma center.

It is mandatory that for all candidates to hold a valid ERC ALS certificate (or equivalent AHA ACLS).

This course is based on needs of recognition of critically ill trauma patients and those patients whom will require to maintain vital functions in accordance with adequate advanced life support and pre-hospital advanced trauma life support procedures.

Uses of initial surgical interventions are limited to these vitally important procedures with aim to establish and maintain adequate airway and to thorax stabilization; all other surgical procedures are not part of this course.

In pre-hospital settings, we cannot expect from doctors and other medical staff that has been not previously well trained to deal with specific surgical issues under out-of-hospital environment and very restricted equipment.

Also, diagnostics in classical advanced trauma life support courses is based on and recommends the use of X-ray and CT scans – these procedures are often not available in prehospital settings.

During this course, the emphasis is on portable ultrasound and X-ray (if available) diagnostics, which will complement standard procedures during the pre-hospital period of patient care. Basic laboratory diagnostics are included into the course scenarios.

PHATLS course has been developed from the need for most adequate program which is not based on surgical procedures and within urban- and hospital settings, and based on this, this program has been created and include all required skills suitable for general practitioners, emergency physicians and family physicians to provide most adequate medical care for trauma patients under out-of-hospital settings, to stabilize them and prepare for safe further transport.

PHATLS course is designed for non-rapid-transport trauma patients; patient stabilization and patient care might take up to 24 hours of period, including the most serious cases too.

PHATLS also include triage procedures and work in different danger and risk zones and define the required healthcare professionals procedures for each zone.

This differentiation among red, yellow and green risk zones are especially important in mass accidents, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, industrial accidents and traffic accidents..

PHATLS course is suitable for the working personnel in:

- Mountain areas

- Remote areas
- Flights cabin crew
- Cruisers and ships in open seas
- Separated and remote industrial plants/platforms in petrol and mining industry

This course is very intensive and requires for candidates to prepare for it in advance by the use of the provided pre-course materials – Trauma Manual, used in subject “Resuscitation II” at Faculty for medical sciences in Kragujevac, Republic of Serbia.

During the course, candidates will work on different stations; by solving different scenarios and as well practical skill stations.

The course program consists of :

- Lectures,
- Group Discussions,
- Workshops,
- Skill stations and
- Trauma simulations scenarios (i.e.TSTeach).
- Practical Exam
- MCQ

The course duration is determined by the SerRC course control.

DURATION OF THE COURSE

The pre-course prepares 90 hours of individual homework, 10 hours of interactive e-learning.

Practical hand on session - 14 hours without pause.

Exam: Two-hour MCQ test of multiple choices

Two hours for the final exam

1.2. THE COURSE CONTENT

- Initial Assessment and Management
- Initial Assessment Demonstration
- Risk/danger zones (red, yellow, green) and procedures
- Triage – MASS START ADVANCED
- Airway and Ventilatory Management
- External mass hemorrhage control
- Shock
- Thoracic Trauma
- Abdominal Trauma
- Head Trauma
- Spine and Spinal Cord Trauma
- Musculoskeletal Trauma
- Injury Due to Burn and Cold
- Pediatric and Elderly Trauma
- Trauma in Women/Domestic Violence

- Trauma in Women/Domestic Violence
- Surgical and Practical Skill Stations
- -Surgical Skills -Airway Management
- -Shock -Thoracic Trauma -Head/Neck
- -Xray/Spinal Injuries
- -Spinal Injury Management
- -Musculoskeletal
- Initial Assessment Evaluation
- Written Exam

1.3. PRE-COURSE PREPARATION

1.3.1. COURSE ORGANISATION - CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

☒ The PHATLS course is designed for healthcare professionals who would be expected to apply the skills taught as part of their clinical duties, or to teach them on a regular basis. Appropriate participants include doctors, paramedics and nurses working in acute care areas (e.g. ED, CCU, ICU, HDU, operating theatres, acute medical admissions units) or on resuscitation / medical emergency / ICU outreach teams.

☒ All applicants must hold a professional healthcare qualification or be in training for a professional healthcare qualification.

☒ Medical students should be encouraged to complete an ILS course in the first instance. Medical students in their final year of training can be accepted as candidates on an ALS course if this is an established local arrangement.

☒ Candidates are only eligible to attend the recertification course if they hold or have held a valid ERC ALS provider certificate and it is the Course Director's responsibility to check the ERC ALS certificate is valid. Candidates must attend a full ERC ALS course and not a recertification course if more than a year has elapsed since the expiry date of their ERC

ALS PROVIDER CERTIFICATE.

☒ A candidate must attend the entire face-to-face element of the PHATLS course (regardless of type) in order to complete the course. If a candidate misses an element of the course for a legitimate reason they may be permitted to complete the missed element on another course within 3 months, provided they have passed all the assessment components during the course. Alternatively, at the Course Director's discretion, a candidate may be permitted to complete a missed element on the existing course but this must not detract from their engagement with other elements or from teaching provided to the other candidates.

☒ Candidates who have attended the entire course and completed all the assessments successfully will receive the PHATLS provider certificate. It is valid for 3 years.

☒ Candidates with a disability are eligible to undertake the SerRC PHATLS course. Please refer to the Position Statement on Disabled Candidates attending SerRC Courses 'for further guidance.

1.3.2. PRE-COURSE ORGANISATION REQUIREMENTS

☒ Each PHATLS course must be registered with the SerRC. All course must notify the SerRC PHATLS Coordinators of the PHATLS course date at least 6 weeks in advance using the 'Course Notification' form.

☒ The Course Director must complete the course notification form thereby confirming and accepting responsibility that the course will run in accordance with the criteria set out in these regulations

☒ A registration fee is payable for each candidate, in addition to the cost of the course materials

☒ The SerRC will not provide refunds or credit on unused registrations. If a course is cancelled registrations can be transferred to a future course.

☒ Course fees are set locally. These should take into account costs of running the course but also the current financial climate within the health system and the availability of funding.

☒ Any profit made from courses should be used only for purposes directly related to resuscitation.

☒ The PHATLS notification, registration and materials' form must be completed on the SerRC-CMS. Once the required information is received and checked, a course will be registered and made available to the center on the SerRC-CMS . Manuals will be dispatched once the course has been registered.

☒ It is the Course Director's responsibility to ensure that all Instructors are registered with the SerRC and have a valid Instructor certificate.

☒ Course Directors must ensure that faculty have access to the SerRC-CMS and course materials prior to the course.

☒ If on any occasion the course criteria are not met.

☒ Course Organisers or Directors should only enrol a candidate on the SerRC-CMS once they are confident that the candidate will be attending that course and anticipate no changes. Candidates receive instant access to the e-learning materials once they are enrolled.

☒ Candidates should be given access to:

- their e-learning materials
- the course materials including those on airway management and high-quality CPR
- defibrillation and trauma assessment forms together with the guidance notes the
- Trauma manual at least 4 weeks before the course start date.

☒ Automatic notifications will be sent to candidates one week before they attend the face-to-face course to remind them that they must access all the e-learning modules and submit their completed pre-course MCQ paper before attending the face-to-face course.

☒ Course Directors are strongly advised to check on all candidates' progress on the SerRCCMS at least two days before the course. If a candidate on the e-PHATLS course has not accessed the modules or MCQ paper the center should contact them urgently and remind them to do so before attending the face-to-face element.

☒ Candidates should be made aware that the SerRC and course organisers are able to track whether they have accessed and completed the materials.

1.3.3. ASSESSMENT

There are four assessment components on the PHATLS Provider course: airway management, highquality CPR and defibrillation, trauma assessment and procedures, CAS Test and MCQ.

Airway management, high-quality CPR and defibrillation, trauma assessment and procedures:

These skills are assessed using summative assessment during the respective skills stations and also throughout the rest of the course. At least one SerRC PHATLS Instructor, and one other member of faculty, who is either a full Instructor or an Instructor Candidate, must supervise these skill stations.

If a candidate fails to demonstrate competency in either of these skill stations, opportunities for additional practice and assessment should be provided during the course.

If a candidate has failed to achieve the competencies in either skills station by the time of the TSTest, the candidate will fail the course and cannot re-sit these individual assessment components. In this situation the candidate will not undergo the TSTest.

1.3.4. TSTEST

TSTest: Formative assessment is made of all candidates using the standardised scenarios provided. All candidates must be tested initially using the same simulation as decided by the Course Director. Re-tests must use a different simulation (e.g. all candidates are tested using TSTest 2, all re-tests use TSTest 3).

At least one SerRC PHATLS Instructor, and one other member of faculty, who is either a full Instructor or an Instructor Candidate, must supervise this assessment station. At least one additional helper, who may be another Instructor/IP/IC or trained assistant, is required. Only a qualified PHATLS Instructor or Instructor Candidate (under supervision) may lead the simulation and assess the candidate.

1.3.5. TEST RE-TEST

Candidates who fail their initial TSTest are entitled to a re-test. A different Instructor pair/group should assess the re-test. These are conducted using a different TSTest simulation selected in advance by the Course Director.

If a candidate fails the re-test they may be permitted to continue with the MCQ assessment

if this has not been completed already.

If a candidate passes all other assessments but fails the TSTest despite re-testing they maybe offered the opportunity of taking a third and final TSTest within 3 months. Rarely, the faculty may recommend that a candidate would benefit from taking the entire course again rather than a third attempt at the TSTest. The third TSTest may or may not be on a future course and the location of this should be determined locally.

If such a third TSTest is undertaken at a different course centre the original centre must be notified of the results so they can update the candidate's final results on the LMS. The original centre must inform the SerRC of any updated results.

1.3.6. MCQ

MCQ papers must not be loaned or copied.

A total of 60 minutes is allowed for the MCQ paper and the pass mark is 75%. The MCQ paper must be undertaken under exam conditions with an invigilator present.

Answers must be confined to the answer sheet provided and all question papers must be handed in

1.3.7. CERTIFICATES

☐ Certificates are issued by the Serbian Resuscitation Council. Only those candidates who have attended the entire course and completed all the assessments successfully will receive the PHATLS provider certificate. Certificate is valid for 3 years with recommended recertification on regular base.