

For Instructors from the CDC and IDC August 2023

The CDC met recently and I thought that an update on what we've been working on is well overdue.

There have been a few changes to course content that have occurred recently in response to feedback for course reports and individual feedback, that I want to bring to your attention so that they can be communicated to the instructors on your courses.

Please read below for details about:

1. Day 1 Scenario Demo
2. New Course Content: Thoracic Skills Videos
3. Transport Workshop
4. Directors Meeting – 16th November 2023
5. Feedback
6. Busy Year in 2024
7. GIC Exemptions for ARC ALS2 Instructors

1. Day 1 Scenario Demo

-I have just come from the ESDC course and appreciate anew the importance of a carefully performed scenario demo on day 1. The Prebrief, which orientates the candidates to the way APLS runs their scenarios, is really important. It makes candidates aware of the "hands-on" team leader model that we use in APLS, which is different to the usual "hands-off" style employed by most simulation teaching. In addition, it is an opportunity to begin the fiction contract with the learners, by introducing the manikin, ALSi and equipment, encouraging physical interaction with the manikin to get the clinical information they will need, and stating that more will be gained from the scenario if they imagine that the child and the clinical setting is real. The final important part of the first day scenario demo is the modelling of the learning conversation and psychological safety. Can I suggest that you have an experienced instructor facilitating this, and that you ask the instructors assisting with the scenario to sit down as a group with the demo candidate to model a learning conversation which includes all of the group members and is curious about their perspective. It is useful for all of the *instructors* to watch this first demo as it sets up the expectations for the rest of the course.

2. New Course Content: Thoracic Skills Videos - QR codes to the 2 thoracic skills videos (anatomy and technique) have been added to the last slide of the trauma plenary at the end of day 2. The candidates are asked to watch these before the skill station on Day 3 to reduce the amount of theory that needs to be covered in that station. In addition, some discussion points from an APLS perspective about the place of finger thoracostomy in paediatrics and the use of Seldinger technique for insertion of drains have been added to the teaching material in the kit to provide instructors with some guidance as to how to respond to candidates if this is raised during the course.

- 3. Transport Workshop** - The transport workshop has been substantially redesigned in response to feedback. The aim is to have candidates starting the role play earlier by reducing the content on the slides. The role play has the option to pause and discuss if needed to highlight learning points, or to hold a learning conversation at the end. This has been trialled at a few courses and has had a positive response.
- 4. Directors Meeting – 16th November 2023** - Please join us in Melbourne for this opportunity to learn, network and catch up with friends. You should have received an email invitation in the middle of November but feel free to contact the office if you cannot locate it.
- 5. Feedback** - I wanted to share with you the way that the CDC deals with feedback. The feedback from each course report is collated by the educators and reviewed at each CDC meeting, along with feedback from individuals. If a matter is thought to be urgent and needs to be dealt with immediately the APLS medical officer will be consulted and, if needed the CDC will be consulted by email if a decision is required. We will be beginning a process to acknowledge all feedback submitted, but individual feedback may not always be possible. Please rest assured that feedback is considered carefully, and decisions are made by the CDC team in most cases. If you would like feedback about a particular issue please feel free to email me or the educators directly.
- 6. Busy Year in 2024** - Next year we have been ambitious with the number of courses planned, as we still have a significant waiting list for candidates to get onto courses. The success of this plan particularly depends on having enough directors and faculty, so I would ask that you carefully look at the course program when it is released in early September and sign up where you can. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to APLS- it is valued.
- 7. GIC Exemptions for ARC ALS2 instructors** - The IDC along with the APLS Board have recently reviewed the GIC exemption process for ARC ALS2 Instructors. The new process requires any faculty nominated candidate to submit an application requesting exemption from the APLS GIC due to their status as an ALS2 Instructor. The application will require them to provide a copy of their CV, evidence of their ALS2 instructor status, how many ALS courses they have instructed in the past 2 years and a personal statement. Once an application is received, the request will be considered by the IDC and if approved, the nominee will be welcomed into the APLS Instructor Community. As an Instructor Candidate this nominee will be required to instruct on a course where coach is available or the director has agreed to provide extra support.

Thanks again for your commitment to improving the care delivered to sick and injured children,

Jacquie Schutz and Marissa Alexander on behalf of the CDC, IDC and APLS Board