

About CALS

What is CALS?

CALS (Comprehensive Advanced Life Support) is an educational program designed specifically for rural health providers to meet their advanced life support training needs. The primary focus is to train medical personnel in a team approach to anticipate, recognize, and treat life-threatening emergencies. There are three components to the CALS Program: Home Study, the Provider Course and a skills lab which can include the Benchmark Skills Lab or CALS Trauma Module.

What is the CALS Provider Course?

The two-day Provider Course offers education in cardiac, medical, traumatic, stroke, neurological, pediatric, obstetrical and neonatal advanced life support as well as difficult airway management. It includes a varied format of interactive discussion and scenario-based skills stations taught in a team format. Registrants receive the CALS Provider Manual and materials for home study prior to the Provider Course.

What is the CALS Trauma Module?

This 3-1/2 hour skills module is available in conjunction with the CALS Provider Course. Skills taught include cricothyrotomy, needle thoracostomy, chest tube insertion, and pericardiocentesis. In addition, it includes primary and secondary trauma patient assessment, helmet removal, traction splinting, and introduction to the use of ultrasound in trauma care. The trauma module course is currently not available in all locations.

What is the Benchmark Skills Lab?

The Benchmark Skills Lab is a one-day procedural lab, which covers skills needed in an emergency department for resuscitation of critically ill or injured patients. It is taught in a team format using plausible scenarios. The Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC), Minneapolis, MN, offers the lab which can be taken either before or after the Provider Course.

Who should attend?

The target audience is a team composed of physicians, physician's assistants/nurse practitioners, nurses, and allied health care providers who provide resuscitation to patients of all ages in an emergency setting.

It is recommended that attendees have previously attended an advanced life support course or have adequate clinical experience in critical situations.

What size hospital or community is CALS designed for?

CALS can be beneficial to all health care providers who deal with undifferentiated emergencies regardless of size or location of facility. It is especially designed for rural health care providers who may not have specialized emergency care personnel, but who are presented with highly critical case scenarios.

What is CALS role as advanced life support course in relation to other life support courses?

CALS has been recognized by professional groups such as American Academy of Family Physicians (AAF), American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) as an equally acceptable alternative to other advanced life support and/or trauma life support and/or emergency response training. Because the CALS curriculum is more comprehensive, there may be additional benefit in the rural practice. CALS stresses a team approach to provide emergency care and covers the core concepts of multiple advanced life support programs familiar to many in emergency care. Each medical facility will need to determine the advanced life support training requirements for its staff.

How much does the Provider Course cost?

Registration fees may vary between states. Please, contact CALS Program for information.

Is the course appropriate for pre-hospital personnel?

The course is primarily for in-hospital resuscitation personnel. However, paramedics are often members of the resuscitation team in the emergency department and thus benefit from the training.

How many CME/CEU credits do I earn for completing CALS?

CALS Provider Course: The two-day Provider Course has been reviewed and approved for up to 17.25 AAFP Prescribed credit hours. AAFP Prescribed credit hours are accepted by the AMA as equivalent to AMA PRA (Physician's Recognition Award) Category 1 Credit™ for the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. (When applying for the AMA PRA, Prescribed credit hours earned must be reported as Prescribed hours, not as Category 1.) MN Nurses receive equivalent CEUs.

CALS Trauma Module: The Trauma Module has been reviewed and approved for 3.5 AAFP Prescribed credit hours.

How many health care providers have received CALS training?

Since 1996, nearly 14,000 health care providers who either work in the U.S. or serve in U.S. Embassies around the world have been trained in the life saving skills of CALS.