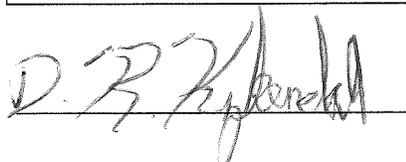


COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND TRAUMA SERVICES SECTION TRAUMA PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF EQUIVALENCY FOR COURSES REQUIRED OF TRAUMA CENTER PERSONNEL.	
Date: July 26, 2010	<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement page(s) of part _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Addition of page(s) to part _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New



Approved by D. Randy Kuykendall  
Chief, Emergency Medical and Trauma Services (EMTS) Section  
Date: 7/26/10

**Policy Statement**

The following policy, enacted by the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section, at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (hereinafter "Department") is designed to address the process for determination of equivalency for courses required in the state rules as applied to education course competencies required for trauma center staff and caregivers. In 6 CCR 1015-4, Chapter 3, Advanced Trauma Life Support courses are required for certain physicians at trauma centers. Likewise, the Trauma Nurse Core Course is required for registered nurses in the emergency department at designated trauma centers. The rules provide for the possibility that other courses may be approved by the Department as "equivalent" to the courses mentioned. The purpose of this policy is to lay out a process that the Department will use to determine if other courses will be considered equivalent to and can be taken in place of the required courses.

**Definitions (6 CCR 1015-4, Chapter 3, Section 300)**

**"1. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) or equivalent-** The training provided in accordance with the American College of Surgeons curriculum for Advanced Trauma Life Support. An equivalent program is one which has been approved by the department. The burden shall be upon the applicant to prove that the program is equivalent to ATLS.

**19. Trauma Nurse Core Course (TNCC) or Equivalent-** The training provided in accordance with the Emergency Nurses Association curriculum. An equivalent program is one that has been approved by the Department. The burden shall be upon the applicant to prove that the program is equivalent to the TNCC."

**Process**

Applicants requesting consideration by the Department of an ATLS or TNCC equivalent course, or other courses as applicable, shall complete and file an application packet with the Department which shall include at a minimum:

- Cover sheet with name and brief description of the alternate course
- Measurable goals and objectives for the alternate course
- Detailed lesson plans for the alternate course
- Listing of specific faculty (with appropriate credentials) teaching the alternate course or identification of the minimum education and experience qualifications required for faculty providing the alternative course
- Evaluation tools for the alternate course including both psychomotor and cognitive testing tools with proof of reliability and validity of testing methodology
- A copy of the current edition of the ATLS or TNCC Provider Manual, or other course materials as applicable.
- A copy of the curriculum being proposed as an alternative

The Department's EMTS Section Chief will convene a panel of no fewer than three reviewers plus at least one Department employee to consider the submitted materials and evaluate whether the alternative course is equivalent. No less than two of the panel member reviewers will have successfully completed an ATLS or TNCC course in the past, or will be a current instructor for ATLS or TNCC or will demonstrate extensive knowledge of the course for which the equivalent is being considered.

A course discussion guide will be provided to the panel to utilize when evaluating the materials submitted by the applicant. The applicant may be requested to provide additional information or to meet with the panel in order to ensure the full exchange of information. The panel may consult the Department's Designation Review Committee, or other subject matter experts, for advice on the potential impact of approval of the alternative course. The panel will conclude the course review and forward a recommendation regarding the course equivalency to the EMTS Section Chief.

The determination to accept or reject the alternative course as an equivalent to the ATLS course or the TNCC will be made by the EMTS Section Chief on behalf of the Department. The applicant will be notified of the decision and any applicable conditions. If a course is found not to be an equivalent for ATLS or TNCC, the applicant will be notified of the deficits. An applicant may submit a course for reconsideration.

## TNCC EQUIVALENT COURSE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Course Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Curriculum and skill stations listed below are covered in TNCC. Panel members may use this or an alternative format to guide discussion and finalize recommendations regarding course equivalency.*

1. Course curriculum includes:	YES	NO
Mechanism of Injury	_____	_____
Assessment	_____	_____
Airway & Ventilation Management	_____	_____
Shock	_____	_____
Brain & Cranial Trauma	_____	_____
Ocular, Maxillofacial & Neck Trauma	_____	_____
Thoracic Trauma	_____	_____
Abdominal Trauma	_____	_____
Spinal Cord & Vertebral Column Trauma	_____	_____
Musculoskeletal Trauma	_____	_____
Surface & Burn Trauma	_____	_____
Special Populations:		
Pregnant	_____	_____
Pediatric	_____	_____
Older Adult	_____	_____
Disaster Management	_____	_____
Psychosocial Aspects/Crisis Intervention	_____	_____
Transition of Care for the Trauma Patient	_____	_____

Other topics covered:

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2. Skill stations included in the course:	YES	NO
Airway & Ventilation Interventions	_____	_____
Spinal Protection, Helmet Removal & Splinting	_____	_____
Physical Assessment	_____	_____

Other skill stations offered:

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3. The course description, lesson plans & course length are sufficient in providing the registered nurse adequate didactic education specific to trauma nursing.

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1	2	3	4	5
Insufficient		Sufficient		Above expectations

4. Faculty's credentials identify sufficient education & the experience necessary to conduct the course competently.

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1	2	3	4	5
Insufficient		Sufficient		Above expectations

5. The reliability & validity of testing methodology is legitimately described.

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1	2	3	4	5
Insufficient		Sufficient		Above expectations

Additional comments regarding this course:

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**Recommendation**

Does the panel recommend this course be accepted as an equivalent to the TNCC?

     YES      NO (Please document below why this course is not an equivalent to TNCC)

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Signature

Signature

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Signature

Signature

## ATLS EQUIVALENT COURSE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Course Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Curriculum and skill demonstrations listed below are covered in an ATLS course. Panel members may use this or an alternative format to guide discussion and finalize recommendations regarding course equivalency.*

1. Course curriculum & skill stations include:

	YES	NO
Management priorities in a trauma situation	_____	_____
Principles of primary & secondary assessment	_____	_____
Airway & initiation of ventilation	_____	_____
Orotracheal intubation - Adult & Infant	_____	_____
Pulse oximetry & CO2 detection in exhaled gas	_____	_____
Cricothyroidotomy	_____	_____
Assessment & treatment of shock	_____	_____
Venous & intraosseous access	_____	_____
Needle thoracentesis & chest tube insertion	_____	_____
Recognition of cardiac tamponade	_____	_____
Pericardiocentesis	_____	_____
Clinical identification of thoracic injuries	_____	_____
Radiographic identification of thoracic injuries	_____	_____
Abdominal evaluation:		
Peritoneal lavage	_____	_____
Ultrasound	_____	_____
CT	_____	_____
Evaluation of brain injury including GCS & CT	_____	_____
Assessment of head & facial trauma	_____	_____
Protection of spinal cord	_____	_____
Clinical evaluation of spinal injuries	_____	_____
Radiographic evaluation of spinal injuries	_____	_____
Musculoskeletal trauma assessment	_____	_____
Burn injury:		
Assessment of size and depth	_____	_____
Volume resuscitation	_____	_____
Recognition of unique risks from trauma for:		
Geriatric client	_____	_____
Pregnant client	_____	_____
Pediatric client	_____	_____
Transfer to definitive care	_____	_____
Principles of disaster management	_____	_____

*Continues on Back*

Other topics covered:

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2. The course description, lesson plans & course length are sufficient in providing the practitioner adequate didactic training specific to providing & managing care of the trauma patient.

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1	2	3	4	5
Insufficient		Sufficient		Above expectations

3. Faculty's credentials identify sufficient education & the experience necessary to conduct the course competently.

---

1	2	3	4	5
Insufficient		Sufficient		Above expectations

The reliability & validity of testing methodology is legitimately described.

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1	2	3	4	5
Insufficient		Sufficient		Above expectations

Additional comments regarding this course:

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**Recommendation**

Does the panel recommend this course be accepted as an equivalent to ATLS?

YES  NO (Please document below why this course is not an equivalent to ATLS)

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Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature