

5 May 2026

## **Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support training readiness of medical professionals**

### **1. Is Basic Life Support course mandatory for the medical professionals working for the Health Board?**

Yes, it is mandatory for all medical professionals to have undertaken some form of life support training either BLS, ILS or ALS.

Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) are responsible for organising training for all resident doctors in training posts. Substantive medical staff must have undertaken BLS as a minimum and are responsible for organising their own training.

If you require further information relating specifically to training provision for doctors in training posts, you may wish to contact NIMDTA directly:

Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA)  
Beechill House, 42 Beechill Road, Belfast, BT8 7RL  
Telephone: 028 9040 0000, Email: [reception.nimmdta@hscni.net](mailto:reception.nimmdta@hscni.net), Website: NIMDTA official website <http://www.nimmdta.gov.uk/>

### **2. How many courses per year does your Resus Training Department deliver?**

Advanced Life Support - 16  
European Paediatric Advanced Life Support - 2  
General Instructor Course - 2  
Inhospital Life Support - 227  
Paediatric InHospital Life Support - 50  
Intermediate Life Support - 392  
Paediatric Intermediate Life Support - 122  
Maternity In-Hospital Life Support - 26  
ALERT - 24  
Bedside Emergency Assessment Course for Health Care Staff - 12  
Community Adult/Paed Basic Life Support – 107  
Advanced Paediatric Life support – 2

### **3. What percentage of doctors/nurses/midwives and other allied health professionals have done BLS training in the last 1 year?**

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) does not hold the information requested in the format specified.

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BLS training attendance is not recorded by individual staffing group, and we are therefore unable to calculate percentages for doctors, nurses, midwives, or allied health professionals.

We can advise that a total of 3,363 staff members attended BLS training between April 2025 and March 2026.

**4. What percentage of your medical personnel have profession specific Advanced Life Support (ALS) training?**

All Queen's University Belfast (QUB) medical students do e-ALS while at University.

All non-QUB incoming F1s (approximately 40%) are offered ILS (half day training) in August - but it is not mandatory.

**5. What is the required frequency for mandatory BLS training?**

Two yearly for substantive staff

**6. What strategies or measures has the trust adopted to encourage annual BLS training for medical professionals with patient facing duties (no pay progression if mandatory training not completed, departmental sessions, ESR alerts, managerial supervision of mandatory training etc)?**

All trainee doctors whose curriculum stipulates a requirement for ALS training - this will be reviewed by their clinical and educational supervisor, with a record kept at their ARCP (Annual Record of Competency Progression) with reference to the ARCP decision aid. Where the curriculum requirements, for example, ALS have not been met the trainee will receive an unsatisfactory ARCP outcome.

All trainee doctors leading the Cardiac Arrest team will be required to have current ALS training. The Resuscitation officers usually follow up on this, for example, internal Medicine Trainees in Belfast City Hospital Out Of Hours.

Permanent medical staff, included on the Statutory and Mandatory training matrix should be discussed with Appraiser at annual appraisal - but not enforced as mandatory (depending on clinical area).

**7. Does the organisation require resus teams to have Advanced Life Support training?**

Yes - the organisation expects that members responding to cardiac arrest calls should be trained to advanced life support level. At the very minimum, there should be at least one member of the cardiac arrest team who is ALS trained. This should be the medical registrar who in turn would adopt the role of team leader.