

## Comparison: ITLS 9<sup>th</sup> Edition and PHTLS 9<sup>th</sup> Edition Texts

### Overview

International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) is a global organization dedicated to preventing death and disability from trauma through education and emergency care. ITLS educates emergency personnel to provide optimal care for the trauma patient. A variety of targeted, comprehensive education programs focused on the pre-hospital care of trauma patients are available to meet the requirements of all levels and backgrounds of pre-hospital emergency personnel internationally. This includes ITLS Basic, Advanced, Pediatric, High Threat (military and tactical), Access (vehicle extrication), and Duty to Respond (for first responders).

ITLS's tradition of excellence continues with the 9<sup>th</sup> edition Provider textbook available in a variety of formats for accessibility and convenience. eBook options include VitalSource and Kindle formats for rental or purchase.

ITLS has taken many of its programs online in a hybrid format as an option for the busy clinician. ITLS eTrauma is the didactic portion of the Provider course available online; the learner may choose to earn ITLS certification by successfully completing an ITLS Completer Course that features 8 hours of hands-on skill station demonstration, practice, and testing plus the ITLS Written Exam. ITLS also offers an online component of the ITLS Instructor Course, composed of interactive modules with videos to illustrate the course's core teachings.

ITLS utilizes basic and advanced pre- and post-test written evaluations to objectively evaluate students' cognitive knowledge. Each written test is 50 multiple-choice questions. In addition, scenario-based hands-on testing is utilized with an assessment rubric to ensure competency in the skills required.

ITLS focuses on the key components of excellent trauma care, promoting evidence-based, concise methods designed to optimize pre-hospital care. The ITLS text is direct, clear and emphasizes a standardized approach to care based on current evidence. ITLS methodology is continually updated through the "Current Thinking" section of ITRAUMA.org to reflect trauma topics and recommendations as reviewed and evaluated by the Editorial Board.

ITLS training is available in more than 120 chapters and training centres around the world. According to the PHTLS website, PHTLS is taught in 64 countries.

ITLS is the smart choice for trauma training because it is practical, dynamic, flexible, team centered, challenging, and grounded in emergency medicine. It also provides training at every level for emergency care providers internationally.



*Improving Trauma Care Worldwide*

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Course/Administrative Comparison	ITLS	PHTLS
Endorsed by the American College of Emergency Physicians.	●	
Endorsed by the American College of Surgeons.		●
Objectively measures assessment and management skills for the care of the critical multi-trauma patient.	●	
Contains core and supplemental content and allows for customization (e.g., course schedule modifications) to address regional and educational needs.	●	
Mandates involvement of the course medical director and strongly encourages on-site medical director presence.	●	●
Emphasizes teamwork - from scene to surgery.	●	
Provides a well-structured assessment and priority plan. The Primary Survey consists of Scene Survey, General Impression (which includes identification and initial management of significant external bleeding), Initial Assessment, and a Focused or Rapid Trauma Survey, designed to identify and address immediate life-threatening conditions and indicate critical interventions that are practical and easy to follow by all levels of EMS personnel. The identification of "Load and Go" conditions ensures valuable time is not wasted at the scene.	●	
The patient assessment algorithm was used as the foundation methodology of the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Standard Curriculum taught in Paramedic, AEMT, EMT and Emergency Medical Responder programs.	●	
Online resources from Pearson Education include skills videos demonstrating 8 key skills and 3 additional appendices: Drowning and Hypothermia; Blood Borne Pathogens; and Tactical EMS.	●	
Offers a dedicated Pediatric course and text that provides in-depth assessment and management tools for the injured pediatric patient.	●	
Offers a specialized Access course and text that provides knowledge and skills for using hand tools to extricate trauma patients entrapped after motor vehicle collisions.	●	

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Offers a standalone course and text, ITLS Duty to Respond, designed for first responders and focusing on initial patient evaluation and critical interventions required to manage a patient until the next level of care arrives.	●	
Provides a single training package for all levels of pre-hospital trauma care providers in 9th edition.		●
Adoption of Case Based Learning in response to advanced educational delivery methods moving away from lecture-based teaching	●	
Uses Primary Survey of ATLS (A-B-C-D-E), but not including a "Rapid Trauma Survey" characteristic of ITLS and the U.S. Department of Transportation National Standard Curriculum, relying instead on information concerning the kinematics of the injury to glean possible causes of respiratory compromise, shock and altered mental status.		●
Primary Survey utilizes the CABC (Control life-threatening bleeding, Airway, Breathing, Circulation) approach to emphasize immediate bleeding control, if present.	●	
Emphasizes the Primary Survey should be completed in less than 2 minutes.	●	
Stresses the importance of a Reassessment Exam.	●	
Stresses kinematics as a key component in identifying possible injuries, rather than a detailed search (Rapid Trauma Survey).		●
Manual includes access to online resources and skill videos.	●	●
Has less emphasis on the decision of when to utilize special extrication.		●
Separate pre- and post-tests for Basic and Advanced EMS providers.	●	

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Text Comparison	ITLS	PHTLS
Based on evidence and best practices; position paper referenced.	●	●
Course-focused text that emphasizes the need-to-know and understand and minimizes the “nice-to-know” information.	●	
Includes supportive skills chapters for Airway, Shock, Thoracic Trauma, Spinal Trauma, and Extremity Trauma.	●	
Expanded chapter on scene assessment, including CDC Trauma Triage Guidelines and SALT triage.	●	●
Introduction chapter contains history of PHTLS: Past, Present and Future, and advice on reading EMS literature.		●
Updated definitions and statistics in appropriate chapters.	●	●
Expanded considerations for prolonged transport in most chapters.		●
Contains lengthy anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology sections.		●
Outlines key terms with objectives of each chapter, which are explained on appropriate pages.	●	
Identifies key messages in each chapter that are clearly highlighted in easily identified boxes called Pearls.	●	
Follows each core chapter with a patient management skills chapter to reinforce learning.	●	
Supplements the core trauma knowledge base with supporting chapters on Trauma Arrest, Trauma in Pregnancy, and The Impaired Patient.	●	
Improved traumatic brain injury content.	●	●
Special Considerations include chapters on Environmental Trauma, Civilian Tactical EMS, and Wilderness Trauma.		●
Separate section introduced with chapters on Disaster Management, Explosions and Weapons of Mass Destruction.		●
Includes reference to the Hartford Consensus II document that indicates EMS should enter the scene of a suspected mass shooting with law enforcement protection.	●	

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Hemorrhagic shock has been updated with the experience of the military during recent conflicts.	●	●
The use of tourniquets, hemostatic agents, and tranexamic acid (TXA) has been added.	●	●
"What's New" section outlines all updates and additions to the previous edition.	●	
Distinguishes between Rapid Extrication and Emergency Rescue.	●	
Describes life-threatening thoracic injuries as the "Deadly Dozen."	●	
Capnography stressed as the standard for confirming and monitoring the position of the endotracheal tube, supraglottic airways and continuous assessment of ventilatory and shock status.	●	●
Discussion on evaluating lactate levels in shock.	●	
Updated discussion of the role of the Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma (FAST) exam as point-of-care testing in the prehospital setting.	●	●
Application of pelvic binders for pre-hospital treatment of an unstable pelvis explained in detail.	●	
One manual for both basic and advanced EMS providers.	●	●
Specialized texts for Pediatric ITLS and Access vehicle extrication.	●	
Pediatric trauma appears only as a chapter in the text.		●
Custom stand-alone High Threat text that addresses the unique challenges of providing care in a high threat environment, centrally designed around the MARCH algorithm with the military or civilian high threat provider in mind. The course ensures compliance with TCCC and C-TECC guidelines.	●	
Military/high threat edition reflects specific traumatic situations faced by military pre-hospital providers.	●	●