



Advanced cardiac life support requirement for PGY1 interns

Interns in postgraduate year 1 (PGY1) are registered in the Provisional General scope of practice. To be eligible for registration in the General scope of practice at the end of PGY1, interns must satisfy specific requirements set by the Council and formally published in the [Gazette notice](#).

One of these requirements is for interns to meet the Council's requirements for advanced cardiac life support (ACLS).

This policy outlines the ACLS requirement for interns. It also sets out the Council's expectations of those prevocational training providers that offer an alternative ACLS course to the New Zealand Resuscitation Council (NZRC) CORE Advanced.

ACLS requirement

To qualify for registration in the General scope of practice, a PGY1 intern must hold ACLS certification which is less than 18 months old, at the time they apply for registration in the General scope.

To obtain certification, PGY1 interns must complete either the NZRC CORE Advanced certification or an alternative course which is at the standard of NZRC CORE Advanced. The requirements for alternative courses are set out below.

ACLS certification must be completed while registered and practising in the Provisional General scope of practice, as a PGY1 intern.

Alternative ACLS courses

We require all training providers who deliver an alternative ACLS course to NZRC CORE Advanced to incorporate the following elements into their course and to refer to the NZRC website for further information around [CORE Advanced](#) requirements.

Content

Alternative ACLS courses must cover the essential practical skills of resuscitation, which are:

- adult collapse management plan
- child and infant collapse management plan
- automated external defibrillator (AED) defibrillation
- manual defibrillation
- initial approach to trauma
- management of airway obstruction and breathing.

Assessment

Alternative courses must include a formal assessment of the practical skills of resuscitation as well as assessment of theoretical knowledge.

Delivery

Alternative courses must include self-directed learning and face-to-face training. They must be delivered by a NZRC certified CORE Advanced instructor.

Certification

A certificate of completion must be provided to the intern. The certificate must include the date the intern passed the assessment and include the signature and name of the NZRC certified CORE Advanced instructor who conducted the assessment.

Course content, assessment and delivery oversight

Those responsible for clinical governance within the prevocational training provider must oversee the course content, assessment, and delivery, to ensure it is clinically appropriate and relevant for the nature of clinical practice undertaken by PGY1 and PGY2 interns.

Advisory panel

The training provider's approved advisory panels must meet to discuss the overall performance of each PGY1 intern and their eligibility for registration in the General scope of practice, once that intern has satisfactorily completed, or is near to satisfactorily completing, four clinical attachments. At this time, a panel must consider the intern's ACLS certification, to determine whether they have met the ACLS requirement for registration in the General scope of practice.

June 2025	Approved by Council
June 2030	Scheduled for review

Policy – Advanced cardiac life support requirement for PGY1 interns – June 2025
DM# 21239137