

Section

# 1

## Overview

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Pediatrics is a rewarding and challenging health care specialty. As we work in a pediatric setting, it is critical to remember that “Children are not little adults.” What this means is that health care professionals who don’t often work with children can unintentionally frighten or even endanger them if they treat them as they would treat adults.

The purpose of this instructor guide is to outline differences in assessing and managing airway, breathing, circulation, disability, and exposure in children. A number of short case studies help you illustrate those differences to learners. The focus is on priority setting for safe, effective health care of children. . .when seconds count.

## What is When Seconds Count?

The When Seconds Count program addresses how to assess, plan, and implement developmentally appropriate emergent care for children. It is modeled after basic life support and trauma care by addressing the major components of the pediatric airway, breathing, circulation, disability, and exposure. This course can also be used to support the development of a rapid response/assessment program.

## Who is it for?

The When Seconds Count program is designed for educators and clinicians to use to train staff, new hires, or students in critical care of pediatric patients. This may include health care professionals with limited pediatric experience, novice health care professionals, students, or pre-hospital staff who may encounter children in a health crisis. It can also be used as an annual competency for health care professionals who work with children on a limited basis.

## What are the goals?

- Develop critical thinking skills related to clinical management of an acutely ill child.
- Identify and apply a developmental approach to a child during an intervention.
- Recognize and treat conditions unique to children associated with supporting and maintaining:
  - ⇒ A patent airway.
  - ⇒ Adequate breathing.
  - ⇒ Sufficient circulation.
  - ⇒ An intact neurological system.
  - ⇒ A developmentally appropriate head-to-toe preliminary assessment.

- Provide assessment tools for practitioners at the bedside or in the field, including:
  - ⇒ Monitoring and responding to the effects of exposure to the environment.
  - ⇒ Asking questions to families and children that lead to the appropriate treatment.
  - ⇒ Recognizing red flags that require a higher level of care.
  - ⇒ Preventing harm to a child during an assessment or an intervention.

The outcome for the training is to ensure that children receive the safe, appropriate emergency care at the time they need it.

## What materials are available?

Use the When Seconds Count program as a whole, or use separate components to meet the needs of individual learners.

- *A VHS tape or DVD* that reviews the ABCs of pediatric assessment, intervention, and reassessment. This program emphasizes the assessment and interventions associated with compromised airway or breathing of a child.
- *An eLearning course* for all staff that reinforces the content of the video and goes into greater depth on the following:
  - ⇒ Introduction to pediatric assessment.
  - ⇒ Airway assessment and intervention.
  - ⇒ Breathing assessment and intervention.
  - ⇒ Circulation assessment and management.
  - ⇒ Disability (Neurological) assessment and management.
  - ⇒ Exposure/Environment assessment and intervention.
- *A pocket reference card* with measurement parameters for A–E. You can use this with a group or with individual learners. In addition, health care professionals can use these cards on the job for immediate access to critical information.

- *First Five Minutes: A Guide to Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Drug Dosages*, a pocket reference appropriate for code cart use. Includes weight-based calculations using standard concentrations of common resuscitation drugs. Helps meet Joint Commission guidelines and reduces chances of medication errors.
- *Just in Time (JIT) learning sheets* for skills review before working with specific age groups.
- *This instructor guide*, which gives you suggested ideas for implementation and additional resources for learners.
  - ⇒ *A post test* to use as a requirement or to evaluate learners' understanding of the content.
  - ⇒ *Case scenarios* (in this guide) for facilitated instruction.

## Tips for using program materials successfully

When Seconds Count is designed to be used in a classroom setting or independently. We recommend the following methods to apply the components of the program:

Component	Use
Video/DVD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is an introduction to the program. It should be viewed first.</li> </ul>
eLearning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The eLearning lessons build on the introductory video/DVD and cover specifics about airway, breathing, circulation, disability, and exposure in pediatric patients. Learners should review the eLearning, including the red flags, stop signs, and “check your knowledge” questions before you present the cases in this instructor’s guide.</li> <li>You can use the eLearning in several ways:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ As a stand-alone within a learning management system.</li> <li>⇒ Loaded on individual computers.</li> <li>⇒ As part of an instructor led course, you can use the “check your knowledge” studies in the modules to build on assessment, intervention, and reassessment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Post test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can load the test to a learning management system or include it in an instructor-led setting.</li> </ul>
Case scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The case scenarios are ideally used with simulation infants or child manikins to reinforce critical thinking and psychomotor skills.</li> </ul>

JITs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just in Time learning sheets (JITs) are a quick, easy reference to use when a health care professional is working with a patient whose developmental level is outside of his or her routine.</li><li>• You can use the JITs for the skills stations in section 2 of this guide. For example, a learner could refer to the JIT to obtain the correct size tubing to suction a five-week old or the best way to deliver an aerosolized treatment.</li><li>• After completing the course, you can make the JITs available on paper or electronically for access as needed.</li></ul>
Pocket reference card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The pocket reference card is a tool that health care professionals can use in their daily practice. You can also use it as an adjunct to the eLearning course or the classroom skills stations.</li></ul>
First Five Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides reference information for use in code situations.</li></ul>