

BEACHTM

BEDSIDE EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT COURSE FOR HEALTHCARE STAFF

The BEACHTM course is a half day course aimed at unregistered healthcare staff. It teaches a structured and prioritised approach to assessment, care and handover of a deteriorating patient.





The BEACH™ Course is one of the suite of courses from the ALERT™ Headquarters at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (PHT). The BEACH™ Course is designed to give unregistered healthcare staff increased confidence, skills and knowledge to be able to:

- assess patients using a structured approach
- recognise, respond and interpret physiological changes and deterioration in patients
- act quickly to prevent further deterioration
- call for appropriate help in a timely manner
- effectively handover to appropriate help

There is a body of evidence showing that recognition of the deteriorating patient by clinical staff is often delayed and/or not escalated timely. The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA, 2007), states that unregistered healthcare staff, such as healthcare assistants (HCAs) are undertaking vital sign observations far more frequently having been delegated to undertake this task by registered nurses, receiving limited education to interpret and consider the results, and respond appropriately. According to evidence HCAs make up a third of the caring workforce and spend more time than the nurses at the patient's bedside (Cavendish Review, 2013).

In the UK, national bodies have responded by stating:

“Staff caring for patients in acute hospitals settings should have competencies in monitoring, measurement, interpretation and prompt response to the acutely ill patient appropriate to the level of care they are providing. Education and training should be provided to ensure staff have these competencies, and they should be assessed to ensure they can demonstrate them. ”

NICE Clinical Guidance 50 – Acutely Ill Patients in Hospital (July 2007)

“Health Care Support Workers (HCSWs) are valued and integral members of the nursing team. They must be supported to develop the knowledge and skills required to deliver competent and compassionate patient-centred care. ”

“The RCN contributed to the independent *Cavendish Review* into HCSWs and was a strong supporter of the recommendations. There are inconsistencies in the education, training and support for HCSW's across the UK which must be a robust structure for development, training and education and a linked career framework. ”

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Health Care Support Workers (September 2015)





The BEACH™ Course learning objectives are to teach unregistered healthcare staff:

- A structured and systematic approach to the assessment of at risk patients.
- The physiology and importance of vital signs monitoring and how and when to recognise and respond promptly using an early warning scoring system.
- To undertake an A–H patient assessment using a ‘look’, ‘listen’, ‘feel’ approach.
- The importance of a prioritised approach to assessment, management and escalation of a patient who is deteriorating, within their individual scope of practice.
- Their role in emergency situations and improved knowledge of key emergency equipment.
- To use a structured communication tool to handover effectively to registered healthcare staff.

The BEACH™ Course incorporates:

- A comprehensive BEACH™ manual which the candidate receives at least four weeks before the course. This manual is then used as a workbook on the course.
- The manual can be used as evidence for continuing professional development and link to their career framework.
- Interactive workshops which can be adapted to meet the local patient safety agenda.
- Content which enables the development of skills and knowledge to support a number of the Care Certificate standards as recommended following the Cavendish Review (2013).

The BEACH™ Course has:

- A blended, flexible learning approach with the ability to run the course as a half day or expand to a full day to enable bespoke topics, i.e. embedding organisational learning from incidents and human factors training.
- A nationally recognised candidate course certificate.
- A straightforward programme to organise and deliver with minimal equipment required.

Comments from BEACH™ candidates:

“ Confidence in taking vital signs and reading them. ”

“ Extra knowledge of what to look for in a sick patient. ”

“ I like the look, listen and feel approach. ”

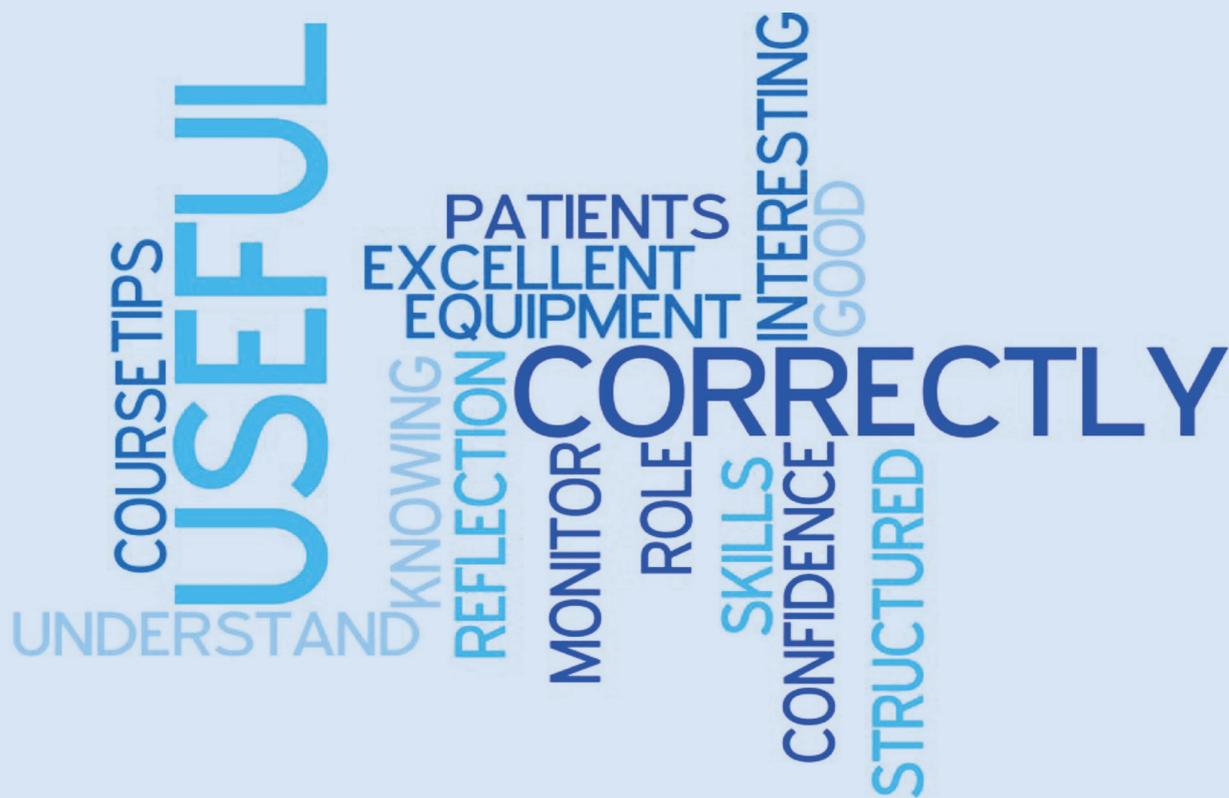
“ Learnt how to assess an airway and equipment used to maintain it. ”

“ Vital signs are crucial for prevention and anticipation of deteriorating patients. ”

 look

 listen

 feel



Requirements to deliver the **BEACH™** Course:

- An **ALERT™** Course licence, which enables use of all of the suite of courses, and purchase of manuals from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
- Purchase of a **BEACH™** Course only annual licence and manuals from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
- Adherence to the **BEACH™** Course regulations which can be found on www.alert-course.com

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