



Instructor Guidelines

Overview

The Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) is pleased to share that the organization recently partnered with the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT) to review and update the Trauma Outcomes Performance Improvement Course (TOPIC) teaching modules. The course modules have been revised according to the following objectives:

1. Align with the concepts covered in the performance improvement chapter of the newest edition of the *ACS Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient* manual
2. Incorporate The Joint Commission (TJC) new taxonomy
3. Include fair and just culture concepts

In addition to the content revisions, leaders from both organizations recognized that the delivery method and format of the course needed to be analyzed as well. As part of the analysis and revisions, **vignettes** have been developed to capture the essence of trauma clinical care with identification of specific events, robust analysis, and corrective action plans with resolution and mediation of the event.

Instructor Training

Additional instructor requirements and eligibility are provided below.

The revised content and the implementation of the vignettes were introduced this past fall and are scheduled to be taught again in the first quarter of 2013. Current TOPIC instructors as well as qualified individuals interested in becoming TOPIC instructors are required to successfully complete an instructor training. Instructors, depending on your current status, are eligible for one of the following training options:

1. **Current Instructors** (i.e. have taught a course in the past 2 years): The updated presentation and vignettes will be distributed via email to current instructors to review and learn. Instructors are encouraged to audit a TOPIC course and are required to attend an in person training prior to teaching the new course and vignettes.
2. **Expired Instructors** (i.e. have not taught a course in > 2 years): Instructors are required to audit a TOPIC course and attend an in person training prior to teaching the new course and vignettes.
3. **New Instructors** (i.e. have never taught TOPIC): Trauma professionals interested in becoming a TOPIC instructor are required to complete an instructor application. Upon approval, the individual must take the new TOPIC course and complete an in person instructor training prior to teaching the new course and vignettes.

Instructor Requirements & Eligibility

Current & Expired National Faculty

All **current instructors** are required and eligible to participate in and complete training on the updated content, vignettes and the delivery method and format of the course. Only instructors who have completed the training are eligible to teach.

New National Faculty

National Faculty are STN members in good standing within the organization or a member of ACS/COT. National Faculty must participate in one course every two years. Faculty may be asked to participate in other TOPIC duties assigned by the TOPIC Committee Chair. All National Faculty members are approved by the TOPIC Committee. All faculty must meet the following qualifications:

- Successful completion of an ATCN, ATLS, or other nationally recognized instructor course.
Rational: TOPIC instructors must be competent in applying the principles of adult education.
- Must have participated in a successful completion of a trauma center site survey [verification, designation or accreditation]
- Successful completion of a full TOPIC course
- Successful completion of a TOPIC Instructor course (offered ad hoc)
- Successfully taught 2-4 modules with TOPIC Faculty as mentors/observers
- Note: as of September 2011 all TOPIC Faculty in good standing, regardless of the requirements listed above will remain Faculty
- TOPIC Instructors must teach one course at least every two years with updates completed on line

**Trauma nurses and physicians interested in teaching TOPIC may submit an application via the STN website at _____
The STN TOPIC Committee will review the application and determine eligibility.**

STN and the ACS COT are proud to offer TOPIC and look forward to training new faculty.

Completed Forms and Questions:

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