

# A.S.L.S. Testimonials

Advanced Stroke Life Support® (ASLS®) is a simulation-based 8-hour curriculum on the management of acute stroke patients, developed by the University of Miami Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education, to educate pre-hospital providers on scene, nurses and physicians in the hospital Emergency Department, and on through the continuum of care to the stroke or critical care unit.

The curriculum includes a unique neurologic assessment tool—the Miami Emergency Neurologic Deficit (MEND) Exam—for both prehospital and hospital use, that is easy to learn, easy to use, and provides key information to enhance communication among EMS personnel, nurses, and physicians. Based on the NIH Stroke Scale (NIHSS), the MEND exam incorporates the Cincinnati Pre-hospital Stroke Scale (CPSS), also known as the FAST exam, and takes less than 3 minutes to perform.

ASLS® has been successfully utilized by hundreds of hospitals, EMS systems, and educational institutions throughout the United States, in Mexico and Hong Kong. The Gordon Center is delighted to be working with Solutions Training and Advisory, Ltd., on an adaptation of the ASLS® curriculum specifically for use throughout the United Kingdom.

*Dr Ivette Matola, Director, Division of Prehospital & Emergency Healthcare The Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Emergency Medicine University of Miami Miller School of Medicine*

‘The pilot of the ASLS programme saw a range of pre-hospital and hospital clinicians learning in multi-disciplinary groups, side by side. Following pre and post course evaluations there was clear evidence that both knowledge and confidence improved as a result of the programme.

One of the key areas where this new e-course is proving to be valuable is in the teaching of the MEND clinical examination technique. This approach to consistent, replicable assessment of stroke and TIA symptoms is key to be able to take emergent stroke assessment to the next level.

MEND which supports and is consistent with validated stroke scales such as FAST, CPSS, ROSSIER and NIHSS, crucially allows clinicians to be able to identify stroke symptoms which may otherwise have been missed, allowing more patients to gain timely access to stroke treatment. I genuinely believe that this programme, alongside high quality care pathways, will save lives and prevent disability’

*David Davis, Clinical Informatics Advisor – AHP National Lead*

‘I’m a Registered General Nurse with the experience of residential care and district nursing. In a previous life I worked in IT and was involved in the development of e-learning. I have completed the Advanced Stroke Life Support Course, produced by Solutions Training and Advisory Limited and I’ve found it to be of high value as not only did it teach me new skills including the MEND examination, but reinforced my knowledge in other areas including a better understanding of Transient Ischemic Attacks. It was easy to use and to navigate, highly interactive and engaging. I would strongly recommend this course to develop the skills of all Clinicians’.

*Sarah Gwilliam—Registered Nurse*

‘ASLS provides pre-hospital clinicians with a structured assessment approach for patients experiencing a transient ischaemic attack or stroke. If clinicians are to embrace the principles of the National Stroke Strategy and ensure that TIAs are risk assessed using the ABCD2 score and referred directly to a clinic or hospital for further assessment, then they need the additional knowledge that ASLS provides in order to spot the more subtle presentations which simply would not be identified by the traditional FAST test alone.

In the case of patients experiencing a stroke, the National Ambulance Clinical Quality Indicators demonstrate that pre-hospital clinicians are good at managing patients who present with FAST positive signs. The challenge now is for clinicians to develop their skills to spot and correctly manage the far more challenging group of patients who are not FAST positive; those who present with issues that are rapidly identified by the MEND exam.

The introduction of ASLS will be at the forefront of South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust’s drive to further improve the care that we deliver to patients experiencing a neurovascular event.

The role of ambulance clinicians is increasingly expanding into health promotion, highlighting undiagnosed atrial fibrillation and hypertension to primary care, in order to help reduce the number of TIAs and strokes occurring in the first place. The health promotion module within the course provides a comprehensive overview to help clinicians embrace their new role.’

*Adrian represented ambulance services during the development of the National Stroke Strategy, pioneering the first multidisciplinary TIA referral pathway. He has supported the development of stroke pathways across the South West and led the first ambulance direct to CT scan pilot, which has significantly reduced door-to-needle times.*