

# ABCDs of the Critically ill Child Online Course Program



**Author** Dr Peter Stuart FACEM

**Peer Review** Dr J Bament FRACGP, Dr M Genevieve FACEM, Dr J Treasure FRACGP

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**Accreditation:** RACGP (Activity Number: 394758) & ACRRM (Activity Number: 39773) for the 2026-2028 triennium

## Learning Outcomes:

**At the completion of the workshop the participants should be able to:**

1. Discriminate the clinical features that indicate serious illness in a child
2. Prioritise the immediate management of the child with serious or life threatening illness
3. Differentiate the clinical features that indicate life threatening acute anaphylaxis
4. Structure the immediate management of the patient with acute anaphylaxis
5. Outline the clinical findings and immediate management of the child with life threatening asthma
6. Discriminate the clinical findings and management of the child with circulatory shock due to severe dehydration
7. Prioritise the management of the child presenting with status epilepticus

## Summary of the e-Learning Program

The e-learning is interactive and requires the clinician to consider a range of the clinical problems and scenarios and provide a response. At the end of each topic a summative quiz is used to evaluate learning and understanding of the topic material. There are five topics, each expected to take the medical practitioner 90 minutes to complete with a total course time of 8 hours.

The five topics are

1. Resuscitation of the Critically ill Child
2. Airway Obstruction : Anaphylaxis
3. Breathing : Asthma in a Child
4. Circulation : Paediatric Vomiting and Dehydration
5. Disability : The Fitting Child

# Outline of the Program

## 1. Recognising and Managing the Seriously Ill Child

**Module Summary:** The young child with acute illness presents major challenges to the clinician due to incomplete history (eg the infant who is unable to report symptoms), difficulties with examination (eg the crying or uncooperative child) and the subtle features of serious disease that may be easily overlooked or missed.

In this topic we consider the clinical features and red flags that suggest serious illness in a young child. We explore this topic in detail by examining the presentation, clinical assessment and management of a child presenting with fever.

### Interaction/Assessment:

- Reading: Approach to the Seriously Ill Child
- Video eTutorial : Paediatric Assessment
- Video eTutorial: Clinical Features for Serious Illness in a Child
- Interactive Clinical Casebook: The Seriously Ill Child
- Topic Quiz – Seriously Ill Child

## 2. Airway : Acute Anaphylaxis

**Module Summary:** Anaphylaxis is a severe hypersensitivity reaction characterised by cardiovascular collapse and respiratory compromise. Symptoms develop rapidly, often within several minutes (but may develop within seconds to as long as an hour), after contact with the allergen. Management involves assessment the patient's airway, breathing and circulation and the immediate administration of Adrenaline. Additional therapies include nebulised Salbutamol, IV Fluids, IV Glucagon, Vaopressors and Steroids.

### Interaction/Assessment:

- ABCDs of Emergency Medicine: Paediatric Acute Anaphylaxis
- Video e Tutorial: Acute Anaphylaxis
- Video eTutorial: Using an EpiPen in Anaphylaxis
- Interactive Clinical Casebook : Airway : Acute Anaphylaxis
- Topic Quiz – Acute Anaphylaxis

## 3. Breathing: Asthma in a Child

**Module Summary:** In this topic we explore the assessment, red flags and management of the young child with severe or life threatening asthma. Early recognition and institution of bronchodilator therapy in appropriate doses is critical to preventing further deterioration of the child and is discussed through the use of Case Simulation.

### Interaction/Assessment:

- ABCDs of Emergency Medicine: Paediatric Acute Asthma
- Video eTutorial: Acute Severe Asthma
- Interactive Clinical Casebook : Severe Asthma in a Child
- Topic Quiz – Severe Asthma

## 4. Circulation : Paediatric Vomiting and Dehydration

**Module Summary:** Vomiting with dehydration is a common complication of a variety medical and surgical disorders in children. In the following module we consider a young child who presents with dehydration and review the clinical findings of mild, moderate and severe dehydration and consider the options for management including oral, nasogastric and intravenous fluid administration.

### Interaction/Assessment:

- ABCDs of Emergency Medicine: Paediatric Vomiting and Dehydration
- Video eTutorial: The Vomiting Child
- Interactive Clinical Casebook : Paediatric Vomiting and Dehydration
- Topic Quiz - Paediatric Vomiting and Dehydration

## 5 Disability : The Fitting Child

**Module Summary:** Visibly frightening, the child with status epilepticus is at serious risk of physical injury, airway obstruction and hypoxia. Prolonged fitting may cause serious brain injury or death. Urgent intervention is required to ensure a clear airway, correct hypoxia and control the seizure. In this topic we review the immediate management priorities in the child with status epilepticus and the current options for pharmacological control of the seizure.

### Interaction/Assessment

- ABCDs of Emergency Medicine: The Fitting Child
- Video eTutorial: Paediatric Status Epilepticus
- Interactive Clinical Casebook : Status Epilepticus
- Topic Quiz – Status Epilepticus

## 6 Final Post Course Assessment Quiz

- Final Course Quiz – ABCDS of the Critically Ill Child (Summative assessment: 30 mins)