

## **Cardiothoracic Advanced Life Support Course.**

In 2003 there was a cardiac arrest on a patient 4 hours post-cardiac surgery. Over the following four hours his chest was re-opened three times and eventually the patient was re-grafted in his ICU bed on bypass. Many of the nursing and junior medical staff reported they felt disorganized and of little help to the situation and would have performed much better if they had a defined and well practiced role. In response to this we created the Cardiothoracic Advanced Life Support Course.

In doing so we have devised a set of protocols that address the patient suffering a cardiac arrest post cardiac surgery. These guidelines have been taken up by the European Resuscitation Council and will be incorporated into their next handbook. Furthermore we realized that with that with changes in staffing cardiac surgical units out of hours it was necessary to devise further guidelines for other common serious complications in ICU or on the ward. Our aim was to create a common language for all cardiothoracic practitioners including junior medical staff, nurse practitioners, surgical assistants, intensive care and HDU nursing staff.

Since its inception we have carried out 11 such 3 day courses and 3 other 1 day courses at cardiac surgical units throughout the UK and Ireland. The educational aspects of these courses have been validated and published, and the results in safer clinical care have now been observed at a number of cardiac surgical centres.

The course is located at the Rheged Visitor Centre, Penrith.

Current courses;

November 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 2007

17-19<sup>th</sup> April 2008

24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July 2008

27-29<sup>th</sup> November 2008

For further information about the course please visit our website [www.csu-als.com](http://www.csu-als.com).