

CENNZ National Triage Report for 2026 AGM

The CENNZ National Triage Programme has continued to have a busy year, with strong demand for triage education across Aotearoa. During 2026, 313 nurses have completed CENNZ National Triage Course training, with courses delivered across metropolitan, regional and rural locations.

Interest in the National Triage Course continues to extend beyond Emergency Departments, with increasing enquiries from Urgent Care services and rural areas throughout the country. This reflects the growing need for accessible, nationally consistent triage education across a range of acute care environments.

An additional rural course at Dunstan Hospital was added to the 2026 programme in response to identified demand within Central Otago and surrounding areas.

2026 National Triage Courses

2026 NATIONAL TRIAGE COURSES			
#	LOCATION	COURSE DATES	COURSE STATUS
1	Christchurch	14 – 15 February 2026	Completed
2	Wellington	21 – 22 February 2026	Completed
3	Waikato	7 – 8 March 2026	Completed
4	Taranaki	28 – 29 March 2026	Completed
5	Invercargill	9 – 10 May 2026	Completed
6	Tauranga	23 – 24 May 2026	Completed
7	Wellington	20 – 21 June 2026	Completed
8	Hawke's Bay	25 – 26 July 2026	Completed
9	Whangārei	29 – 30 August 2026	Completed
10	Christchurch	19 – 20 September 2026	Completed
11	Waikato	3 – 4 October 2026	Upcoming
12	Wellington	10 – 11 October 2026	Upcoming
13	Whangārei	31 October – 1 November 2026	Upcoming
14	Dunstan Hospital, Clyde	31 October – 1 November 2026	Additional rural course
15	Wellington	14 – 15 November 2026	Upcoming

National Triage Instructor Group

The National Triage Instructor group has continued to grow during 2026, with three new instructors, Lauree, Emma and Zoe, appointed and welcomed to the team. All three have now completed their observation courses and are beginning to deliver courses alongside experienced instructors, who will continue to provide mentorship and support as they develop

in the role. Their appointment strengthens the sustainability and geographical reach of the programme and increases our capacity to respond to demand throughout Aotearoa.

The annual National Triage Instructor face-to-face meeting was held in August. This provided an opportunity for the instructor group to come together to review current course delivery, educational content, clinical scenarios, assessment processes and future programme priorities. Remaining 2026 courses and instructor allocations were confirmed, alongside initial planning and allocation of the 2027 programme.

Instructor remuneration was also reviewed during 2026. Following further discussion and National Committee approval, the per-course teaching fee was increased to \$1,026.79 gross per instructor per course, with the new rate backdated to courses delivered from the beginning of 2026. The revised fee has been incorporated into the CENNZ Triage Instructor Manual.

Course Review and Development

Ongoing review and development of the National Triage Course has been a significant focus during 2026.

The instructor group undertook a comprehensive review of the adult, paediatric and mental health clinical scenarios. Work is underway to establish a consistent group of mandatory core scenarios alongside discretionary scenarios that instructors can utilise for additional teaching. Individual scenarios are also being reviewed and updated to improve clarity, clinical relevance and consistency across course delivery.

A wider review of the PowerPoint presentation and course content is also underway. This includes review of sepsis education to align with national pathways, shock teaching, mental health triage and associated teaching resources. Mental health content is being updated to reflect changes associated with Section 109, including progression to Phase 4 and the 15-minute handover period. CENNZ has formally raised concerns regarding implementation without additional resourcing and is progressing a position statement in this area.

Course tools and pre-reading resources are also being reviewed, including updates relating to suicidal ideation and ATS 3, adult assessment terminology, work of breathing, pain descriptors, ATS guidance and paediatric burns fluid resuscitation. Additional guidance will also be incorporated around recording of course content, sensitivity of material and learner self-care.

Assessment Review

The instructor group has commenced a review of the National Triage Course assessment process. Discussion has focused on ensuring assessment appropriately reflects clinical reasoning and the application of triage principles, with consideration being given to placing greater weighting on scenario-based assessment rather than general knowledge alone.

Work is underway to review the examination and marking format and to further develop the scenario bank used for assessment.

Refresher Education

Development of a Triage Refresher Course remains part of the future work programme. This has not yet progressed to implementation and will require further development by the instructor group.

Planning for 2027

Planning for the 2027 National Triage Course programme is completed, with the programme for first quarter live on website and instructors confirmed.

An additional Dunedin course is planned for February 2027 in response to local demand. Increasing enquiries from Urgent Care services and rural areas will continue to inform future course planning, with additional courses considered where there is demonstrated need and sufficient instructor capacity.

The focus for 2027 will also include completion and implementation of the current scenario, course-content and assessment reviews, progression of the Triage Refresher Course, continued development of the instructor workforce and maintaining consistency in delivery of the National Triage Course across Aotearoa.

Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge and thank our National Triage Instructors for their ongoing commitment, flexibility and contribution to the programme. Their willingness to travel throughout the country, support additional courses and contribute their clinical and educational expertise to the continued development of the programme is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to acknowledge the CENNZ National Committee and Sharyne Gordon for her ongoing support with course coordination, administration and planning.

Rochelle Harper
CENNZ National Triage Director
2026