

**ELSO Award for Excellence in Life Support**

**Committee Policies and Procedures**

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# Application Requirements

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|  | ELSO participating centers may apply for the Award of Excellence Award OR the Path to Excellence Recognition if the following criteria have been met: |
|  | Member of ELSOfor three (3) years, dues in good standing to apply for the Award of Excellence Award* new member, dues in good standing to apply for the Path to Excellence Recognition
 |
|  | Providing ECLS therapyfor five (5) years and support an average of five (5) patients per year to apply for the Award of Excellence Awardthere is no minimum requirement to apply for the Path to Excellence Recognition |
|  | Pay application fee |
|  | Submit all data registry forms for every patient supported with ECLS within the designated ECLS center in the applying institution* Data Use Agreement (DUA) signed and active

centers that have met the 3-year membership requirement are required to enter all patients for those 3 years* patients that were supported prior to ELSO membership, do not have to be submitted to the Registry, but are recommended
* centers applying for the Path to Excellence should enter all patients for the period of ELSO membership. If Center has been a member of ELSO, but not contributing data, there is no minimum requirement to apply. However, moving forward all patients must be submitted
 |
|  | Submit all required de-identified documents |
|  | Centers may apply for award designation if:* The ECMO program is directed by a single leadership team
* Registry data is submitted for all patients
* Policies and procedures are standardized
* Standardized education procedures are present
* Programmatic involvement in all quality initiatives is apparent
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|  | Application Domain |
|  | Information entered within the application may be used in de-identified descriptive presentations or published documents |
|  | ELSO reserves the right to use de-identified information obtained from the Center of Excellence Award applications for quality improvement, research, and related purposes |
|  | The ELSO Award for Excellence in Life Support designation is an honorary one and does not indicate a certification by the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization |

# Application Submission

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|  | Application Accessibility |
|  | Available online at [www.elso.org](http://www.elso.org)  |
|  | Applications must be completed as per instructions and by the deadline |
|  | Late applications may be considered on a case by case basis. A significant late fee will be imposed  |
|  | Applications are submitted electronically and are only available during a limited application window |

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|  | Application Processing |
|  | The Application will be reviewed by ELSO administration for adherence to application criteria:* Application fee received
* Anonymous (de-identified) content
* Verification of Registry Data numbers submitted
* Verification of ELSO Membership status
* Verification of ELSO Data Use Agreement (DUA) signed
 |
|  | If one or more of the application criteria is not met, the Center will be contacted with instructions as to what is required before it will be accepted. Deadlines for application submission will be maintained* Application fee must be received by March 1st
* Accommodations may be made with ELSO office for late fees
* Centers must have fee submitted in order to be notified of Award status
 |
|  | If the Application has been determined to meet submission criteria, the Application will be entered into the Award Database and identified with a “Center Application Number,” along with the date of submission |
|  | ELSO Administration assures anonymity before Applications are reviewed* The Application remains blinded throughout the scoring process
* The Application identity is revealed once the Final Award Score is determined
 |
|  | Applications that are started in the online application process, but are not completed by the application deadline, may be subject to deletion from the application database |

# Application Period

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|  | Award Designation Calendar |
|  | March 1st – Application Deadline |
|  | April 1st to June 30th - Site visits |
|  | July 15th – Award Notifications |
|  | October 15th – Award documents available for download for the next Award cycle |
|  | January 1st - Online application portal opens |

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|  | ELSO Conference Designation and Award Plaques |
|  | Awarded centers will be announced / awarded at the main annual ELSO Conference and the chapter meeting to which their center belongs |
|  | Awarded centers will receive one plaque associated with Award status |
|  | Additional plaques may be ordered for an additional fee and shipped at a later date |

# Application Review and Scoring

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|  | The Application will be received and scored by the Center of Excellence Committee |

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|  | The Application will be scored using the Award of Excellence Scoring Tool |
|  | The proprietary Scoring Tool is based on a 5-point Likert scoring system where 1 does not meet the standards and 5 exceeds standards. The award is comprised of seven (7) categories as follows:Systems FocusEnvironmental FocusWorkforce FocusKnowledge ManagementQuality Focus Process OptimizationFamily Focus |
|  | Questions will be scored using the Scoring Tool Elements Definitions |
|  | A total score is the sum of the individual category scores |
|  | A final score is recorded for each Application |

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|  | Site Visits  |
|  | All centers consent for a site visit by submitting the Award Application. Any center refusing the site visit will be ineligible for Center of Excellence designation |
|  | A percentage of applying Centers will receive a site visit for the purpose of validating Centers’ applications  |
|  | Scores are subject to revision upon findings from the site visit  |
|  | Site visits will be conducted by teams of 2 COE committee members |
|  | Site visits will be conducted between April 1st and June 30th |
|  | Centers will be selected randomly by ELSO administration from the applications that meet scoring criteria |
|  | Centers selected will be given notice and instructions when scheduling the site visit |

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|  | Determining Award Designation for the Application |
|  | Applications for the Award of Excellence that achieve a score of 1000 points will be awarded as a Gold level Center of Excellence in Life Support |
|  | Applications for the Award of Excellence that achieve a score of 1400 points will be awarded as a Platinum level Center of Excellence in Life Support |
|  | Applications for the Path to Excellence in Life Support that achieve a score of 500 points will be awarded as a Silver level Path to Excellence in Life Support |
|  | ELSO reserves the right to change the minimum score required to achieve the award levels |

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|  | Committee Process Regarding Scoring |
|  | ELSO will be notified when a center does not meet criteria to achieve the Center of Excellence Award or the Path to Excellence Recognition |
|  | Centers not achieving the minimum award score will not be awarded for that level. The committee may allow a lower designation depending on the score achieved |
|  | Center Applications that are scored within 50 points of achieving the minimum award scores are reviewed by at least one other Committee member. The scores from all reviewers will be averaged and this score will become the Application final score |
|  | Centers will be notified of their final scores and Award status via email to the primary contact and the medical director as included in the center application.  |

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|  | Appeal Process |
|  | Centers may not appeal their final Application score due to the defined review process of the Committee |
|  | The Committee decision is final  |

# Award Fee and Designation Period

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|  | The Application fee is paid in US Currency  |
|  | The fee is $3500.00 USD for Center of Excellence |
|  | The fee is $2000.00 USD for Path to Excellence |
|  | International ELSO Centers in specific countries may be eligible for a discounted fee according to the World Health Organizations categories. This is automatically calculated on the invoice |

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|  | The Application fee is nonrefundable |
|  | If a Centers' Application is not accepted due to not meeting the minimum requirements for submission, the fee will be returned |
|  | The application fee will not be refunded for any center not achieving the level applied for as a Center of Excellence designation |

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|  | Award Designation and Logo Use |
|  | The Award designation period is for three (3) years and begins January 1st of year to follow and ends December 31st |
|  | The official Platinum, Gold and Silver Award logos may only be used during the Award designation period |
|  | Centers will have access to their specific Award designation logo only during the Award designation period |

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|  | End of Award Designation |
|  | Centers are no longer recognized as Centers of Excellence or Path to Excellence Centers after the expiration of their Award designation period |
|  | Centers must retain ELSO membership in good standing throughout the Award designation period or forfeit the designation |

# The ELSO Award of Excellence Committee

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|  | Structure |
|  | The ELSO Award of Excellence Committee (AOE) reports to the ELSO Quality Committee Chair and to the Steering Committee |
|  | The AOE structure consists of an executive committee including chairs and members, andA scoring team, subset under the executive committee, andAd hoc members, subset under the executive committee |
|  | The AOE executive committee will have three (3) members at a minimum  |
|  | Ad hoc members may be chosen to serve at the discretion of the COE chairs |
|  | Emeritus professionals may remain on the AOE up to 10 years as the discretion of the chairs |
|  | All members of the AOE executive team are members of the scoring team |
|  | The Scoring team consists of members chosen by the AOE executive committee  |

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|  | Committee Membership |
|  | Committee membership is voluntary |
|  | Committee membership requires at least a three-year commitment |
|  | New members will be solicited, and an application process may be used to review and select potential candidates  |
|  | Eligibility Requirements* Medical professional, currently in ECLS leadership position with responsibilities for program development, education and/or oversight. (RN, RRT, CCP, MD)
* Clinical Competency in ECMO required
* 3 years ECLS leadership experience
* Preferred experience in ECLS quality improvement activities
* Member of ELSO: Center or Individual
* Member of Center with current ELSO Award of Excellence designation (Gold or Platinum)
* Willing to commit to at least 3 years participation (January-January), including travel, sponsored by ELSO
* Mandatory training and inter-rater reliability testing will be required of all new members
* The ideal candidate is not involved in other ELSO committees or activities due to the time commitment necessary
* Ad hoc members may not be subject to these requirements
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# Definition of Terms

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|  | Definition of Terms |
|  | The correct or formal name of the Award is “The ELSO Award for Excellence in Life Support”May be referred to as:* Center of Excellence Award
* Center of Excellence in Life Support Award
* Gold Level Center of Excellence Award
* Platinum Level Center of Excellence Award
* Designated Gold Level Center of Excellence
* Designated Platinum Level Center of Excellence
 |
|  | The correct or formal name of the Path – is “The Path to Excellence in Life Support”May be referred to as:* Center on Path to Excellence in Life Support
* Silver Level Center on the Path to Excellence in Life Support
* Silver Level ELSO Award Recipient
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# Committee Organizational Chart

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|  | Organizational Chart |
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| **End of Articles****Revised:** 9/26/2025 **Approved:** 10/1/2025  **Approval: ELSO Center of Excellence Committee Co-Chairs** |