

Training Memo: HeartCode® Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) 2016



CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

Date of Release	June 28, 2016
Purpose	To provide direction and information on the AHA's HeartCode ACLS Course
General Information	<p>The AHA has developed a new HeartCode ACLS Course updated to reflect recommendations in the <i>2015 AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and ECC</i>.</p> <p>HeartCode ACLS is the online portion of ACLS blended learning that will adequately prepare students for hands-on practice and testing of ACLS skills. It uses a variety of eLearning assets such as a precourse self-assessment, dramatizations, videos, and eSimulations. In this self-directed program, students are able to assess and treat patients in virtual healthcare settings and apply their knowledge to real-time decision-making and skills development. Debriefings and coaching are provided immediately after each simulation to facilitate learning.</p> <p>After completing the online portion, students must demonstrate that they can successfully perform each skill as outlined in the skills testing checklists. Skills practice and testing during the hands-on session can be conducted by an AHA Instructor or by a voice-assisted manikin (VAM).</p> <p>The new HeartCode ACLS replaces the 2010 Guidelines HeartCode ACLS Part 1.</p>
Course Information for Training Centers and Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Instructor-led hands-on session for HeartCode ACLS can be taught by current ACLS Instructors. Instructors must complete the 2015 Guidelines Science Instructor Update Course available on the AHA Instructor Network or have attended an AHA-conducted 2015 Guidelines Science Instructor Update before teaching new courses using new materials. • Training Centers and Instructors may continue to use previous stock of HeartCode ACLS keys and all interim materials posted on the AHA Instructor Network through August 25, 2016. • Appropriate course completion cards must be issued for the course materials being used. • Beginning August 26, 2016, only the 2015 Guidelines version HeartCode ACLS Course and ACLS Instructor materials may be used to conduct ACLS blended learning courses. • All ACLS Instructors must have a current copy of the <i>ACLS Instructor Manual</i>, per the <i>Program Administration Manual</i>. • Instructors are strongly encouraged to complete the ACLS Product & Course Orientation (P&CO) available on the Instructor Network. The ACLS P&CO was created to aid Instructors in understanding the new course design and teaching strategies. • It is also highly recommended that ACLS Instructors become familiar with the HeartCode ACLS online portion prior to conducting hands-on sessions with students. • The hands-on session for the HeartCode ACLS Course can be conducted after successful completion of the online portion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AHA no longer requires providers to complete the hands-on session within 60 days. However, for greater success, it is recommended the hands-on session be conducted shortly after completing the online portion.