

Training Memo: Renewal of Basic Life Support (BLS) in Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS)



CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

Date of Release	July 24, 2017
Purpose	To provide direction and information on how to renew BLS skills during an ACLS Course and receive a BLS Provider card.
General Information	The AHA has designed its ACLS Course with BLS skills as the foundation. Course completion requirements to renew a BLS Provider card can be met during an ACLS Provider or ACLS Update Course with the addition of activities and testing as outlined below.
Course Information for Training Centers and Instructors	<p>To renew BLS skills during an ACLS Course, the following requirements must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student wishing to renew BLS skills must have a current BLS Provider card (eCard or print) and either a <i>BLS Provider Manual</i> or a HeartCode BLS certificate of completion • An AHA BLS Instructor must conduct the testing of BLS skills and administration of the BLS exam • The course agenda must be based on one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sample agenda for the ACLS Provider Course (<i>ACLS Instructor Manual</i>, pages 38-39) ○ Sample agenda for the ACLS Update Course (<i>ACLS Instructor Manual</i>, page 40) ○ A comparable agenda created from the content listed in the Outline for ACLS Provider Course (<i>ACLS Instructor Manual</i>, pages 41 – 42) or the Outline for Update Course (<i>ACLS Instructor Manual</i>, page 43) ○ The revised agenda must include all the following BLS Course completion requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practice and testing of infant CPR skills (Lesson 8 for skills practice and Lesson 15 for skills testing from the <i>BLS Instructor Manual</i>); skills testing will be documented on the BLS Infant Skills Testing Checklist ▪ Child Choking (Lesson 10 from <i>BLS Instructor Manual</i>) ▪ Infant Choking (Lesson 11 from <i>BLS Instructor Manual</i>) ▪ BLS Provider Exam, unless a HeartCode BLS completion certificate of completion is provided by the student • Use of an instrumented feedback device or manikin is recommended for adult BLS skills practice and testing • During learning station cases and Megacode practice and testing, chest compression fraction will be measured and recorded on the station and testing checklists • Completion of a BLS Course roster is required documentation for BLS skills renewal and issuance of a new BLS Provider card • If the student successfully completes all BLS Course completion requirements, a BLS Provider card will be issued regardless of the outcome of the ACLS Course and testing
Implementation Strategies	<p>Renewal of BLS skills during an ACLS Course should be a pre-planned option, with registration for the BLS portion to allow both student and Instructor preparation.</p> <p>The amount of additional time added to the course will depend on how many students are participating in the BLS skills/card renewal option. Use the <i>BLS Instructor Manual</i> Lesson Plans to plan additional time for the ACLS Course.</p>

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Implementation Strategies, continued	<p>Renewal of BLS skills can be completed before the ACLS Course begins or incorporated into the course agenda as an additional station where convenient.</p> <p>The open-resource BLS Provider Exam is best added after both adult and infant skills testing have been completed and is omitted if the student has a current HeartCode BLS certificate of completion.</p>
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