

# Training Memo: Renewal of Basic Life Support (BLS) in Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)



## CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

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| <b>Date of Release</b>   | July 24, 2017   |
| <b>Purpose</b>   | To provide direction and information on how to renew BLS skills during a PALS Course and receive a BLS Provider card.   |
| <b>General Information</b>                                     | The AHA has designed its PALS Course with BLS skills as the foundation. Course completion requirements to renew a BLS Provider card can be met during a PALS Provider or PALS Update Course with the addition of activities and testing as outlined below.  |
| <b>Course Information for Training Centers and Instructors</b> | <p>To renew BLS skills during a PALS Course, the following requirements must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• An AHA BLS Instructor must conduct the testing of BLS skills and administration of the BLS exam</li> <li>• The course agenda must be based on one of the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sample agenda for the PALS Provider Course (<i>PALS Instructor Manual</i>, pages 63-64)</li> <li>○ Sample agenda for the PALS Update Course (<i>PALS Instructor Manual</i>, page 65)</li> <li>○ A comparable agenda created from the content listed in the Outline for PALS Provider Course (<i>PALS Instructor Manual</i>, pages 57-59) or the Outline for Update Course (<i>PALS Instructor Manual</i>, page 60)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The revised agenda must include all the following BLS course completion requirements:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practice and testing of adult CPR AED skills (Lesson 4 for skills practice and Lesson 14 for skills testing from the <i>BLS Instructor Manual</i>); skills testing will be documented on the BLS Adult CPR and AED Skills Testing Checklist</li> <li>○ Adult Choking (Lesson 10 from <i>BLS Instructor Manual</i>)</li> <li>○ BLS Provider Exam, unless a HeartCode BLS certificate of completion is provided by the student</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use of an instrumented feedback device or manikin is recommended for adult BLS skills practice and testing</li> <li>• During learning station cases and case scenario practice and testing, chest compression fraction will be measured and recorded on the station and testing checklists</li> <li>• Completion of a BLS Course roster is required documentation for BLS renewal and issuance of a new BLS Provider card</li> <li>• If the student successfully completes all BLS Provider Course completion requirements, a BLS Provider card will be issued regardless of the outcome of the PALS Course and testing</li> </ul> |
| <b>Implementation Strategies</b>                               | <p>Renewal of BLS skills during a PALS 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 PALS Course.</p>   |

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### **Implementation Strategies, continued**

Renewal of BLS skills can be completed before the PALS Course begins or incorporated into the course agenda as an additional station where convenient.

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.