

Training Memo: 2017 HeartCode[®] Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)



CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

Date of Release	Original Release: January 24, 2017 Updated March 26, 2018
Purpose	To provide direction and information on the AHA's HeartCode PALS Course
General Information	<p>The AHA's HeartCode PALS Course reflects recommendations in the <i>2015 AHA Guidelines Update for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care</i>.</p> <p>HeartCode PALS is the online portion of the PALS blended-learning course that will adequately prepare students for hands-on practice and testing of PALS skills. It uses a variety of eLearning assets such as a precourse self-assessment, dramatizations, videos, and eSimulations. In this self-directed program, students 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 must be conducted by an AHA PALS Instructor, or with a Voice-Assisted Manikin (VAM).</p>
Course Information for Training Centers and Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Instructor-led hands-on session for HeartCode PALS can be taught by current PALS Instructors. Instructors must complete the 2015 Guidelines Science Instructor Update Course available on the AHA Instructor Network or attend an AHA-conducted 2015 Guidelines Science Instructor Update before teaching new courses using new materials. • The hands-on skills sessions can also be conducted using a VAM system. The AHA highly recommends that students who practice and test with a VAM have an opportunity to participate in Megacode practice in a team setting. • Appropriate course completion cards must be issued for the course materials being used. • All PALS Instructors must have a current copy of the <i>PALS Instructor Manual</i>, per the Program Administration Manual. PALS Instructors should also have a current copy of the PALS Course DVD Set. • Instructors are strongly encouraged to complete the PALS Product and Course Orientation, available on the Instructor Network. The PALS Product and Course Orientation was created to aid Instructors in understanding the new course design and teaching strategies.

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- It is also highly recommended that PALS Instructors become familiar with the HeartCode PALS Online Portion before conducting hands-on sessions with students.
- The hands-on session for the HeartCode PALS Course can be conducted after successful completion of the online portion.
 - AHA no longer requires providers to complete the hands-on session within 60 days. However, for greater success, it is recommended that the hands-on session be conducted shortly after completing the online portion.