

CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

As of June 28, 2016

Q: What is HeartCode ACLS?

A: HeartCode ACLS is the AHA's blended learning delivery method for the ACLS Course. Blended learning is a combination of eLearning, in which a student completes part of the course in a self-directed manner, followed by a hands-on session.

HeartCode ACLS is a self-directed, comprehensive eLearning program that uses eSimulation technology to allow students to assess and treat patients in virtual healthcare settings. To enter the course, students must complete the ACLS Precourse Self-assessment. Students will then be presented with a team dynamics lesson and 10 In-hospital patient cases, including a BLS case and 2 Megacode cases. The cases may be repeated as many times as necessary to pass. HeartCode ACLS includes a variety of additional videos, as well as the *ACLS Provider Manual* and the *2015 Handbook of Emergency Cardiovascular Care*, to enhance learning and facilitate successful completion of the patient cases. Upon successful completion of all the patient cases, students will take a multiple choice exam and must pass with a minimum score of 84%.

After successfully completing of the online portion, student must attend an Instructor-led hands-on session with an AHA ACLS Instructor where they will practice and test skills to demonstrate proficiency. Where available, students may also complete the hands-on portion with a voice-assisted manikin.

Q: What is blended learning?

A: Blended learning uses online technology not only to supplement but also to transform and improve the learning process. Successful blended learning can reach students with varying learning styles and in different environments. It is a combination of eLearning, in which a student completes part of the course in a self-directed manner, followed by a hands-on session with an Instructor or using a voice-assisted manikin (VAM).

Q: What specifically is taught in the new HeartCode ACLS?

A: After successfully completing the full HeartCode ACLS Course (online portion, followed by hands-on session), students should be able to

- Apply the BLS, Primary, and Secondary Assessments sequence for a systematic evaluation of adult patients
- Perform prompt, high-quality BLS, including prioritizing early chest compressions and integrating early AED use
- Recognize and perform early management of respiratory arrest
- Discuss early recognition and management of ACS and stroke, including appropriate disposition
- Recognize and perform early management of bradyarrhythmias and tachyarrhythmias that may result in cardiac arrest or complicate resuscitation outcome
- Recognize and perform early management of cardiac arrest until termination of resuscitation or transfer of care, including immediate post-cardiac arrest care
- Model effective communication as a member or leader of a high-performance team
- Evaluate resuscitative efforts during a cardiac arrest through continuous assessment of CPR quality, monitoring the patient's physiologic response, and delivering real-time feedback to the team
- Recognize the impact of team dynamics on overall team performance
- Discuss how the use of a rapid response team or medical emergency team may improve patient outcomes
- Define systems of care

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Q: What are the key differences between the 2010 Guidelines HeartCode ACLS and the 2015 Guidelines HeartCode ACLS?

A: The new HeartCode ACLS includes the following changes and enhancements:

- 2015 Guidelines science including the Chain of Survival for in-hospital and prehospital
- Updated videos, scenarios, and life-like skills animations
- New videos for algorithms included in the ACLS Course
- Includes new Precourse Self-assessment that must be passed with 70% before students can proceed to course content
- Updated number of exam questions for consistency in advanced life support courses (ACLS, PALS)

Target Audience

Q: Who is the intended audience for HeartCode ACLS?

A: The ACLS Course is designed for healthcare professionals who either direct or participate in the management of cardiopulmonary arrest or other cardiovascular emergencies. This includes personnel in emergency response, emergency medicine, intensive care, and critical care units such as physicians, nurses, and paramedics, as well as others who need an ACLS course completion card for job or other requirements.

HeartCode ACLS is for healthcare professionals and others seeking an alternative delivery method for completing ACLS training.

Course Length

Q: How long does it take to complete the online portion of HeartCode ACLS?

A: The online portion of HeartCode ACLS takes approximately 6 ½ to 7 hours to complete, depending on the student's level of experience.

Q: What is the length of the HeartCode ACLS Instructor-led hands-on session?

A: The hands-on session for HeartCode ACLS will take approximately 5 hours without breaks.

Accessing HeartCode ACLS (online portion)

Q: How do students access the online portion of HeartCode ACLS?

A: Once a student is either issued or purchases a key for the online portion of HeartCode ACLS, the student will go to OnlineAHA to activate the key and complete the online portion of the course.

Q: Can the online portion of HeartCode ACLS be accessed after students successfully complete it?

A: Yes, students may access all material included in the online portion of HeartCode ACLS program for 24 months following initial activation of their course key.

Q: Other than a HeartCode ACLS key, what course materials do students need?

A: All student content is contained within the HeartCode ACLS online portion, so no additional student materials are needed. A variety of additional videos, as well as the *ACLS Provider Manual* and the *2015 Handbook of Emergency Cardiovascular Care*, are included to enhance learning and facilitate successful completion of the patient cases.

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HeartCode ACLS Online Portion Certificate of Completion

Q: What is required for student entry into the HeartCode ACLS hands-on session?

A: Upon successful completion of the online portion, including the course exam, students receive a certificate of completion, which they must print and present for entry into the Instructor-led hands-on session.

Q: How can ACLS Instructors verify the authenticity of the HeartCode ACLS online portion certificate of completion?

A: Instructors can verify certificates at OnlineAHA.org/verify_certificate.

Instructor-led Hands-on Sessions

Q: How should ACLS Instructors prepare for conducting HeartCode Instructor-led hands-on sessions?

A: Before conducting hands-on sessions for HeartCode ACLS, Instructors

- Must have completed their 2015 Guidelines Instructor Update.
- Must have a current copy of the *ACLS Instructor Manual* (product #15-1003) and ACLS Course DVD Set (product #15-1004). The *ACLS Instructor Manual* includes information and Lesson Plans for blended learning, and the ACLS Course DVD Set includes the HeartCode ACLS DVD for Instructors to use during hands-on sessions.
- Should thoroughly review the official HeartCode ACLS Training Memo posted on the [HeartCode ACLS Course page on the AHA Instructor Network](#).
- Are strongly encouraged to complete the ACLS Product & Course Orientation (P&CO) available on the Instructor Network. The P&CO familiarizes ACLS Instructors with both Instructor-led and blended learning course delivery.
- Are also encouraged to become familiar with the HeartCode ACLS online portion of the course.

Q: What is the difference between the ACLS skills session (parts 2 and 3) for the 2010 HeartCode ACLS and the Instructor-led, hands-on session for the new HeartCode ACLS blended learning course?

A: The new HeartCode ACLS Instructor-led hands-on session is a *structured* course focused on meaningful skills practice of BLS, Airway Management, and Megacode skills, as well as skills testing. It is more comprehensive than the skills practice and testing session for the 2010 Guidelines HeartCode ACLS.

Megacode

Q: Is Megacode testing required for completion of HeartCode ACLS?

A: While Megacode testing is optional, it is strongly recommended. For Megacode testing, at least 3 students should be present for each case scenario.

Continuing Education

Q: Does the 2015 Guidelines HeartCode ACLS offer continuing education (CE/CME)?

A: Yes, the following CE is available upon successful completion of the online portion of HeartCode ACLS:

The American Heart Association is accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

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AMA Credit Designation Statement – Physicians

The American Heart Association designates this enduring material for a maximum of 4.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

AAPA Credit Acceptance Statement – Physician Assistants

AAPA accepts certificates of participation for educational activities certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* from organizations accredited by ACCME or a recognized state medical society. Physician assistants may receive a maximum of 4.50 hour of Category I credit for completing this program.

AANP Credit Acceptance Statement – Nurse Practitioners

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) accepts *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* from organizations accredited by the ACCME.

***AMA Credit must be claimed within 6 months of attendance. CME/CE will no longer be available to claim for this activity after six months of attending.*

ANCC Credit Designation Statement – Nurses

The maximum number of hours awarded for this CE activity is 4.50 contact hour.

***ANCC Credit must be claimed within 6 months of attendance. CME/CE will no longer be available to claim for this activity after six months of attending.*

ACPE Credit Designation Statement – Pharmacists

ACPE Credit: 4.50 Contact Hour | Universal Program Number: 0256-0000-16-840-H01-P

***ACPE Credit must be claimed within 30 days of attendance. ACPE credit will no longer be available to claim after one month of attending.*

This document is not valid as proof of an ACPE credit award. Credit award information is transmitted electronically from AHA to NABP and its constituent board of pharmacy. A pharmacist's e-Profile ID (ePID) and Date of Birth (DOB) are used to match credit records with the pharmacist's NABP e-Profile. Official electronic and hard-copy documentation is available through the pharmacist's e-Profile at nabp.net within 60 days of course completion.

Continuing Education Accreditation – Emergency Medical Services

This continuing education activity is approved by the American Heart Association, an organization accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS), for 4.50 Advanced CEHs, activity number 16-AMHA-F3-0318.

***CECBEMS credit must be claimed within 6 months of attendance. CME/CE credit will no longer be available to claim for this activity after the 6 month claiming period.*

Disclosure Policy

All persons who develop and/or control educational content in CME/CE activities provided by the American Heart Association will disclose to the audience all financial relationships with any commercial supporters of this activity as well as with other commercial interests whose lines of business are related to the CME/CE-certified content of this activity. In addition, presenters will disclose unlabeled/unapproved uses of drugs or devices discussed in their presentations. Such disclosures will be made in writing in course presentation materials.

Technical Requirements

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Q: What are the minimum technical requirements for HeartCode ACLS?

A: Minimum technical requirements are available at https://www.onlineaha.org/technical_requirements.

Q: Can a student log in and out of the course?

A: Yes. Students can log in and out as many times as they choose. However, the written exam must be taken in one sitting. To log out, students must click the "Click here to logout" link located at the top of the page after login. When the student is ready to continue training, he/she can return to OnlineAHA.org and login with his/her registered email and password.

Customer Support Information

Q: Whom should I contact for technical assistance with HeartCode ACLS?

A: Customers may contact the AHA Customer Support Center at 888-242-8883 or help@onlineaha.org for technical assistance. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Central Time.

Q: Whom should I contact with questions related to the administration of the HeartCode ACLS Course?

A: For questions about course administration, you may contact your AHA Account Manager or Account Specialist. AHA Instructors should always consult their TCC as their first point of contact. TCCs may also contact AHA TCC Support at tccsupport@heart.org.