

National ECC Training Memo

March 22, 2004

Subject: The American Heart Association's Online Course for Healthcare Provider Renewal

Purpose: Provide direction and support to BLS Training Centers and BLS Instructors for the use and management of the HCP Renewal Course

Background: The healthcare training network has expressed concerns about the rising costs of traditional training programs and the increasing demands on patient care staff. There are times when learners, instructors, and administrators find traditional training courses inconvenient due to the realities of everyday working life. In response to these needs, the American Heart Association has actively sought additional ways to deliver its educational and training programs. Partnering computer technology and instructor evaluation to complete course requirements is one alternative offered to students and instructors.

General Information

The Online Course for HCP Renewal allows students to complete online all but the psychomotor components of the course. When followed by a brief skills session with an AHA BLS Instructor, participants earn the BLS for Healthcare Provider card.

This course recognizes that healthcare providers have knowledge and skills acquired from years of patient care and prior CPR training. The greatest challenge in retraining healthcare providers lies not in skills acquisition but in the cognitive component of memorizing the steps for multiple scenarios, which reinforces rapid recall of the sequences during emergency situations.

Curriculum and Agenda

The program consists of Part 1, an online portion, and Part 2, a skills evaluation completed with an AHA BLS Instructor.

In Part 1 there are 12 mandatory checkpoints that must be successfully completed (but in any order) before a student is allowed to access the final written test. Twenty exercises are available for review, and an additional 19 optional video clips can be accessed for skills demonstrations.

When all checkpoints are successfully completed, the student has access to Version A of the HCP written test. Students failing to achieve 84% or greater on version A of the final exam are allowed to review online course materials as needed. These students must then successfully complete Version B. Once the posttest is completed, students can print a certificate that documents completion of Part 1.

Part 2 consists of skills testing conducted by an American Heart Association BLS Instructor. Skills sessions are scheduled to meet the needs of the students and instructors.

Course Completion Requirements

- Complete each of the 12 checkpoints
- Achieve a score of 84% or greater on the final written exam

- Successfully demonstrate all required skills during the skills testing session
- Complete skills testing (Part 2) within 60 days after completing Part 1

Required Skills

The skills check, which must be completed by an AHA BLS instructor, includes the skills required in a standard BLS for Healthcare Provider Course:

Adult Skills

- Integrated relief of FBAO in the responsive and unresponsive adult victim, rescue breathing, and use of a bag-mask device
- Integrated adult 1- and 2-rescuer CPR and AED use and use of a mouth-to-mask device

Child Skills

- Integrated relief of FBAO in the responsive and unresponsive child, 1- and 2-rescuer CPR, and rescue breathing and use of a bag-mask device

Infant Skills

- Integrated relief of FBAO in the responsive and unresponsive infant, 1- and 2-rescuer CPR, and rescue breathing and use of a bag-mask device

Four new integrated skills check sheets are available for all Healthcare Provider Courses, and they are posted on the ECC Instructor Page www.americanheart.org/cpr.

Remediation

The need for remediation was rare during pilot testing of the Online Course for HCP Renewal. If remediation is necessary, refer to the following points:

- Remediation must be accomplished according to the timeline of the current Program Administration Manual
- Students failing to successfully complete Version A and B will be instructed to document their completion of the Online HCP Renewal course by printing the course homepage. This page should be taken to their scheduled skills session.
- Students presenting a current Healthcare Provider card are entitled to remediation with an instructor as defined in the current Program Administration Manual
- Students who successfully complete Part 1 but have difficulty completing the skills in Part 2 must present a current Healthcare Provider card to receive skills remediation
- Students who present an expired provider card or who do not have a card are not eligible for further remediation with an instructor but must attend a HCP Renewal Course in a traditional classroom setting
- Instructors may remediate student skills during the skills sessions as time allows. Excessive time should not be spent with those who have repeated difficulties with more than one skills sequence. The student should be referred for traditional classroom-based renewal.

Course Documentation and Course Completion Cards

The process of documenting course completion and issuing Healthcare Provider cards should follow the requirements stated in the current Program Administration Manual.