

National Training Memo

February 16, 2004

Subject: HeartCode ACLS Anywhere

Purpose: To provide information and training guidance about HeartCode ACLS Anywhere, a self-directed, computer-based ACLS learning program.

Background: The healthcare training network expressed concerns about the rising costs of traditional training programs and the time demands on patient-care staff. There also are times when learners, instructors, and administrators find traditional training inconvenient due to the realities of everyday working life. The new AHA elearning initiative seeks to provide additional ways to deliver AHA educational and training programs that solve some of these problems. This first of several such courses, HeartCode ACLS Anywhere provides a self-directed program that allows learners to practice techniques at their own pace while receiving feedback and evaluation of their cognitive skills.

General Information

HeartCode ACLS Anywhere is a CD-based program that includes microsimulation technology. The program can be used on most computers, though it is not Macintosh-compatible. Individual users load the program onto a computer, and all work is saved to that computer. Students complete the didactic components of ACLS independently, followed by completion of a brief skills session with an AHA ACLS Instructor. They are then qualified for an AHA ACLS Provider card.

User Profiles

HeartCode ACLS was developed for several professional levels. At sign-on, users are asked to select their current professional background — physician, nurse, or EMT/Paramedic. Selection of “physician” prompts an additional choice between physician and clinical pharmacist. Nurses choose from nurse practitioner, ICU/ER nurse, or med/surg nurse. EMT/Paramedics choose from EMT-B, EMT-I, or EMT-P. If their position is not described, students should choose the profile that most closely matches their responsibilities. Full descriptions of each profile are available within the program and are posted on the ECC Instructor website.

Curriculum and Agenda

An ACLS Course completed with HeartCode ACLS Anywhere consists of two parts: the CD-based cognitive portion, which is completed independently, and the skills testing portion, completed with an AHA ACLS Instructor.

The 10 core cases of ACLS are presented in an interactive, case-based format on a CD-ROM. An orientation to the program, embedded links to references materials, and review lessons on topics such as airway management and rhythm recognition provide support for the cases.

The cases can be completed in any order. The student selects the case and manages care of the patient by choosing treatments from drop-down boxes or by using the cursor to select equipment in the room or locations on the patient's body. When students have completed treatment of the patient, they can have the case scored or they can try again. Either choice provides an intelligent debriefing of the treatment, with embedded links to reference materials for review. A score of 70% is required for successful completion. Choosing "try again" causes that case not to be applied toward course completion.

On successful completion of all 10 cases, the student accesses the written ACLS posttest on the computer. If the written test is not successfully completed, the student is given an opportunity to review the areas missed and provided another opportunity to complete the test.

Once the 10 cases and the written test are successfully completed, students are prompted to print the completion certificates — one for ACLS and one for continuing education credit appropriate for the discipline identified during registration. The ACLS certificate is taken to the training center, where skills testing is completed. A sample certificate is attached to this memo.

Validation of Certificate

Training Center Coordinators can verify the validity of a certificate presented to them by following instructions posted on the Training Center Coordinator site.

Course Completion Requirements

- Successful completion of the 10 core cases
- Achievement of 84% or greater on the written test
- Successful completion of the required skills check

Required Skills (To be completed within 120 days after printing the ACLS certificate)

The required skills check includes:

- One-rescuer adult CPR with AED (Requirement can be waived with proof of a current AHA Healthcare Provider CPR card)
- Successful management of one arrest scenario, including v-fib/pulseless v-tach and 2 other rhythms
- During the patient scenario, appropriate airway management, which includes
 - Safe and adequate patient ventilation with a BVM
 - Recognition of need for advanced airway management
 - Primary and secondary confirmation of tube placement
- If within the scope of practice or job requirement of the student, demonstration of endotracheal intubation

Skills check sheets are posted on the ECC Instructor Page at www.americanheart.org/cpr.

The skills check for an individual student should take no more than 20 to 25 minutes, if no remediation is needed.

Remediation

Remediation of the core cases and written test is built into the program. Failure to successfully complete a case requires the student to complete a similar case and one additional case. Links to appropriate resources and reference materials are provided in the debriefing session following each case.

Remediation during the skills verification is provided by the instructor according to current guidelines outlined in the Program Administration Manual.

Course Documentation and Course Completion Cards

The training center providing the skills check will issue the provider card and document the session the same as for an ACLS Provider Course. The ACLS certificate confirming completion of the computer-based portion should be maintained on file with the course roster. The student retains the certificate documenting CE credit.

The course completion card is completed according to policy, with the issue date being the date the skills check is completed.

Providing a skills check session equates to a course taught toward requirements for maintaining ACLS Instructor status.

Certificate

Daniels, Lori

has successfully completed the following HeartCode module

ACLS certificate

HeartCode is a computer based self directed learning system. The application software utilizes casualty scenarios containing specific learning objectives for training in medical knowledge and decision making.

This certificate does not constitute successful completion of the complete ACLS Program. A skills check, verified by an official AHA Training Center, is required in order to receive the ACLS course completion card.

Certificate Signature:

AU6NW-9B2SAMPLE-RV9C-NOT-VALID-FABRICATED-9SJ6JE



Course Director

Jo Haag RN MSN

Date Passed:
November, 26, 2003