

**Training Memo: Skills Practice and Testing for
HeartCode™ PALS Part 1 CD**

TO: American Heart Association Training Centers and Instructors

DATE: January 8, 2010

Purpose

To provide direction for skills practice and testing of students who have successfully completed the HeartCode PALS Part 1 program.

**General
Information**

HeartCode PALS Part 1 is a self-directed learning program using eSimulation technology. This program is delivered through the HeartCode PALS Part 1 CD product designed for individual users. It can be used on most computers; however, it is not Macintosh-compatible.

Course completion consists of three parts: the computer-based cognitive portion; and the skills practice and testing portion (parts 2 and 3), which must be completed with an AHA PALS Instructor.

Skills testing must be completed within 60 calendar days of completing the computer-based portion indicated by the completion date on the certificate.

**Validating
Certificates**

Training Center Coordinators and PALS Instructors can verify the validity of a HeartCode PALS Part 1 certificate presented to them. The certificate from the current version of HeartCode PALS Part 1 will have an anatomical heart watermark as the background. Instructions on how to verify the validity of a certificate are posted on the AHA Instructor Network, accessible to all registered instructors.

**Course
Completion
Requirements**

1. Successful completion of all cases in the HeartCode PALS Part 1 program
2. Achievement of 84% or greater on the online exam
3. Successful completion of the required CPR skills test administered by an AHA PALS Instructor
4. Successful demonstration of the management of respiratory emergencies
5. Successful demonstration of intraosseous access techniques
6. Successful completion of one (1) PALS Cardiac Core Case Testing Scenario and one (1) Respiratory or Shock Core Case Testing Scenario, functioning as the Team Leader in each

Students must present a valid HeartCode PALS Part 1 Certificate of Completion before completing steps 3 – 5.

Continued on next page

Training Memo: Skills Practice and Testing for HeartCode PALS Part 1 CD, Continued

BLS Skills Testing	<p>A current Healthcare Provider card is not an alternative to completing the BLS skills test.</p> <p>Each student must individually perform the BLS skills test. Skills included are 1-rescuer child CPR and AED and 1 and 2-rescuer infant CPR. Students should be given the opportunity to practice BLS skills before testing. The Lessons Maps from Lesson 3 of the PALS Provider Course will guide instructors through the BLS practice and testing. Instructors will use the BLS Skills Testing Check Sheet found in the PALS Instructor Manual.</p>
Management of Respiratory Emergencies	<p>Each student must individually demonstrate the psychomotor skills of managing a respiratory emergency. Instructors will use the Management of Respiratory Emergencies Skill Station Competency Check Sheet found on the PALS Instructor CD to evaluate this skill. This skill evaluation can be incorporated into the PALS Core Case Testing Scenarios if desired.</p>
Vascular Access	<p>Each student must individually discuss the indications and contraindications for intraosseous access and demonstrate the psychomotor skills of IO insertion. Instructors will use the Vascular Access Skill Station Competency Check Sheet found in the PALS Instructor CD to evaluate this skill. This skill evaluation can be incorporated into the PALS Core Case Testing Scenarios if desired.</p>
PALS Core Case Testing	<p>Instructors must provide instructor-led PALS Core Case Testing for each student. This can be done individually or in teams of up to 6 students.</p> <p>Each individual student must successfully perform the role of team leader in 2 PALS Core Case Testing scenarios. One scenario must be either shock or respiratory distress and the second scenario must be cardiac arrest / rhythm disturbance. These assessments are to be conducted according to Lessons 24 and 25 of the PALS Provider Course, using the specified tools and check sheets.</p>
Remediation	<p>Students who do not successfully complete any of the skills testing requirements should be remediated and retested using the same guidelines for remediation provided in the PALS Instructor Manual for classroom-based courses.</p>
Course Completion Cards	<p>Students who have successfully completed the HeartCode PALS Part 1 program and the instructor-led skills practice and testing session will receive an AHA PALS Provider Card. The card will be issued by the Training Center of the Instructor completing the skills testing, and the name of the Instructor completing the testing is to be on the card.</p> <hr/> <p>The issue date for the card will be the date the skills testing is successfully completed.</p>