

Training Bulletin: American Heart Association – American Red Cross Course Reciprocity Agreement

TO: American Heart Association Training Centers and Instructors
DATE: December 1, 2006

Purpose

This Training Bulletin issues the Program Administration Subcommittee changes determined on October 3, 2006. These changes will take effect December 1, 2006.

This Bulletin provides the rationale for the suspension of the instructor reciprocity agreement between the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross and to provide guidance to the American Heart Association Training Network.

Background

Prior to the launch of the *2005 American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care*, the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross granted reciprocity for each other's instructors. The reciprocity agreement, signed in 2003, permitted American Red Cross providers and instructors to enter American Heart Association Basic Life Support and Heartsaver Instructor courses, and providers who had the American Red Cross Professional Rescuer Credential to enter an American Heart Association's Healthcare Provider renewal course.

This reciprocity was based on the American Heart Association and American Red Cross's use of common guidelines and instructional methods, which guide how CPR and other skills are performed and taught.

Suspension of Reciprocity Agreement

There are now differences between the American Heart Association 2005 Guidelines for CPR and ECC and the American Red Cross publication of their interpretation of the 2005 Consensus on Science and Treatment Recommendations. The American Heart Association believes there are substantial scientific differences between American Red Cross courses based on the American Red Cross CPR Guidelines and American Heart Association courses based on the *2005 American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR and ECC*.

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Suspension of Reciprocity Agreement (continued)

Due to these differences, the reciprocity agreement has been suspended. An ARC provider card may not be accepted for entrance to an AHA provider renewal course or an AHA Instructor course.

American Heart Association ECC volunteer leaders made this decision only after careful review and consideration. American Heart Association and American Red Cross volunteer and staff leaders are discussing ways to resolve the science and training differences and remain committed to training more people to respond to cardiovascular emergencies and to save more lives.

Program Administration Manual change

The Program Administration Manual, 3rd Edition – Effective date July 1, 2004, page 85, section entitled, “American Red Cross Reciprocity” is deleted.

December 1, 2006

Training Bulletin: **ACLS and PALS Physician Instructor requirements; and Lead Instructor**

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DATE: December 1, 2006

Purpose This Training Bulletin issues the Program Administration Subcommittee changes determined on October 3, 2006. These changes will take effect December 1, 2006.

ACLS and PALS Physician Instructor requirements For ACLS and PALS provider and instructor courses, the requirement to have a physician-instructor available during courses has been eliminated.

ACLS for Experienced Providers courses and ACLS EP Instructor courses must have a Course Director who is appointed by the ACLS Training Center. If the ACLS EP Course Director is not a physician, a physician who is also an ACLS EP Instructor must be available for consultation, but is not required to be physically present for the course.

Lead Instructor Designation The designation of Lead Instructor has been eliminated.

ACLS and PALS Course Directors retain all responsibility and oversight of their courses.

BLS Instructors and Heartsaver Instructors do not have to designate a Lead Instructor. If two or more instructors co-teach, only one instructor submits a roster to a TC for the issuance of course cards. The other instructors only submit a notification of having taught in the course and may include a copy of the roster, but their TC has no responsibility to the issuance of course cards.

December 1, 2006