

Good News to Share!

As an affiliated hospital instructor, it is important that you are the first to know about news updates that relate to your staff and organization. For this reason, I am sharing an early update with you, which will be more broadly announced soon. *Hospitals and staff within our organization will be transitioning their resuscitation training & certification programs to a new program from a highly trusted and competent source: the American Red Cross.*

Under the new agreement, we are actively working on a plan to ensure a seamless, smooth, and trouble-free transition for each area and our staff. We know that you will have many questions—and we are here to assist you every step of the way. Right now, you can read the following Q&A to learn more about this exciting news.

An SBAR announcing the change will be sent this week to notify all units and departments of the change.

Q&A

1. Why did our organization select the American Red Cross Resuscitation Suite program?

Offering the best possible training and education to our staff remains our priority. The resuscitation competency and skills of our staff are important factors in achieving optimal outcomes for patients. After months of significant due diligence, it became clear that the advantages of transitioning to the new American Red Cross Resuscitation Suite outweighed the alternatives—as we believe it is a better program.

2. How is the Red Cross program different from our current program?

First, let us be clear about what is the same: *the science*.

The American Red Cross (ARC) Resuscitation Suite is consistent with the best science and evidence-based practice historically used in U.S. resuscitation programs such as American Heart Association (AHA). The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) is who derives those recommendations & guidelines for resuscitation. ARC follows these same recommendations & guidelines based on ILCOR's recommendations just as AHA does.

Since the science is the same, the algorithms or treatment guidelines for cardiac arrest are also the same and will remain the same as we are currently using now. The treatments and treatment guidelines for other emergent cardiac situations such as tachycardia, bradycardia, & opioid overdose will also remain the same as we currently use now.

There are, however, key advantages to the American Red Cross (ARC), which are highlighted in the next question/answer.

In short, the new Red Cross Resuscitation program has *many* new capabilities and features that make it more advanced, user-friendly, and modern.

- It incorporates adaptive learning with pre-assessments, facilitating more impactful, personalized learning plans with targeted competency development. If the healthcare

professional is already knowledgeable, he/she may save valuable time and appreciate the smarter and more efficient approach to certification.

What does that mean? Less time in front of the computer doing resuscitation modules for users that are already competent! The program “adapts” to your learning level and does not spend time teaching things you already know.

- All the same class options that were available before are still available! None of the options have changed. In fact, the computerized manikin one has been greatly improved!! The only change is what was once called ACLS (Advanced cardiac Life Saving) is now simply called ALS (Advanced Life Saving)
- Manikins are EASIER to use and more user friendly! These innovative, award-winning manikins will enhance the learners experience and be easier for the user to navigate. See question 7 for details.
- CE’s are now available to learners who complete an American Red Cross (ARC) class. See question 6 for details.
- The learner will receive their card instantaneously and automatically after completing the online module, if skills were performed on the manikins.
- Regardless of how the learner chooses to perform their hands on or whether the class is live or online, their card is always housed and accessible to the user on the HealthStream website. No more searching for cards!
- For instructors, this process is EASIER than ever! No more requesting cards to be placed into accounts. Once the user is completed (job aid to follow), the card automatically issues.
- ACLS (advanced cardiac life support) is now called ALS (advanced life support)

3. How will this affect instructors?

The bridging of Instructors to ARC is a very easy process. Because the science, algorithms and interventions are the same, only a single 30-45 min module is required and the transition to becoming an ARC instructor is complete and an ARC card will be issued to you. Your expiration date remains the same. Instructors will have access to sign off students in HealthStream (ARC’s learning platform). It will automatically issue the card when you verify that their hands on has been completed. Job aids are being created and will be sent out to you showing the complete process step-by-step.

In order to bridge to ARC you must be a current up to date instructor, which means you must have your guideline modules completed. Therefore, **YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE AHA GUIDELINE UPDATE MODULES BY DEC. 31ST, 2020 IN ORDER TO REMAIN AN UMHS INSTRUCTOR. You must print and keep the certificate of completion to renew your instructor certification.**

Currently our IT department is hard at work determining the exact process for learners and detailed instructions will be distributed as well as placed on the CED website once it is

finalized. I will be posting forms, documents, flowsheets, calendars etc as they become available on our website so please keep the link below to access and check back frequently: <https://ced.muhealth.org/cpr>

The renewal process for instructors will remain very similar to what it is now with AHA and I will be sending more details soon.

4. Will the assignment features be the same with the Red Cross program as the AHA program?

The assignment features will be similar, but with added features and capabilities—as described in the response to question #3. After successfully demonstrating appropriate knowledge and skills, certification is achieved and a digital certificate is issued, that may be printed or saved by the user – as everyone has grown accustomed to receiving.

5. Does our written policy (as it is right now) allow us to accept both the Red Cross and AHA credentials?

Yes, per our policy we currently and have always accepted credentials from the American Red Cross Resuscitation program. As this program is used by the department of defense, including all military branches.

6. Does the American Red Cross Resuscitation Program offer any CE Credit for the learner?

- Yes, completing the American Red Cross Resuscitation Program does provide the learner with continuing education credit. The first learning activity in a BLS, ALS or PALS curriculum is to verify profile information. This verification allows CE credit to be applied to an active license within the student's profile. The licenses(s) currently in the student profile will be listed for the student to view, verify, edit, or add a new license. Additionally, respiratory therapists now qualify for CE Credit based upon the Red Cross Resuscitation certification.

7. Are the manikins truly improved?

- YES!! These are Award-winning manikins, Braydon Pro, from Innoson American and will be available in place of our current computerized manikins. ***They are more user friendly and easier to use.*** These manikins incorporate an innovative visual feedback mechanism, which shows visible blood flows to the brain (*directly from the manikin in real time*) when resuscitation skills are accurately used.
- In addition to the feedback provided directly from the manikin itself, instantaneous feedback regarding the depth and rate of compressions, among other things, is made available through interactive, real-time graphs on an iPad.

8. How often do the American Red Cross (ARC) BLS/PALS/ALS certifications need to be renewed?

- The certifications renew exactly as they do now, every 2 years

9. Will AHA online classes continue to be available? What if I need to renew in January?

- Those needing to renew in January should either:

1. IF POSSIBLE RENEW before Dec 31st via an online option and **PRINT** certificate prior to Dec 31st. All modules not completed before Dec. 31st will close on Dec 31st and no longer be available. Progress will not be saved and ability to prove the module has been completed will not be available and will have to be repeated with an ARC offering instead.

2. If can not complete an AHA class before Dec. 31st, students should wait until January 1st to enroll in an online class. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BEGIN A JANUARY ONLINE MODULE UNTIL JANUARY 1ST. January 1st ARC offerings should be available online.

10. I expire in January and I need to take a live class; can I take a live ARC class in January?

- To support the transition to ARC and assist with the successful launch and establishment of the online offerings, January live classes will not be offered. In February live offerings should resume.
- All ARC online offerings are available January 1st, if this is your first ever ALS or PALs class check with your manager or SLS to determine if you can take the online version or will need to wait until February's initial live offering is available.

11. As a manager or SLS, can I track the expiring certifications of my team members?

- However, this new system does give us added capability and we are hoping in future implement will allow managers more tracking capability. HealthStream has a Resuscitation widget on the landing page for managers (MyTeam) that will identify those who are due within 30 days or are overdue. Managers/SLS are able to message staff directly to ensure appropriate action. Achieving 100% completion has never been easier.



