

Advanced Cardiac Life Support

What to Expect in the ACLS Provider Course:

During this course you will learn by observing, discussing and doing. ACLS instructors will help you achieve the course objectives using the following approaches.

Manage 10 Core Cases Through Small-Group Case-Based Teaching

The ACLS Provider Course uses case-based teaching. Your instructors will expect you to learn the critical assessment-management actions for 10 core cases by conducting the Primary and Secondary ABCD Surveys and implementing the algorithms. You must recognize the need for the specific critical actions and be able to carry them out in a timely manner.

You will learn to manage these 10 core cases during small group discussions and occasional larger group sessions. Since 1994 small group discussion has been the main format used in ACLS provider courses. In each case you will review three rescuer roles: one lone rescuer, two resuscitation team members, and three resuscitation team leaders. Part Two of this manual will walk you through the 10 core cases and their successful management.

The cases cover respiratory emergency, four types of cardiac arrest (simple ventricular fibrillation/ventricular tachycardia [VF/VT], complex VF/VT, pulseless electrical activity [PEA], and asystole), four types of pre-arrest emergencies (bradycardia, stable tachycardia, unstable tachycardia, and acute coronary syndromes), and stroke. Generally the cases follow a specific sequence with each case reinforcing sequences with each case reinforcing knowledge and skills learned in the preceding cases: respiratory arrest, simple VF, complex VF, PEA, asystole, acute coronary syndromes, tachycardias, and ischemic stroke.

Successful case management both during the course and in professional situations requires constant thinking and analysis. Some of these cases require interventions that ACLS providers have never used or interventions that are--by licensing regulations--outside their scope of practice. Do not worry. Successful completion requires that you see and understand, not that you must see and do. The course gives you a framework on which to build your knowledge, skill, confidence and expertise. With self-directed study, renewal training and a lifelong approach to case-base learning, you will be able to meet the challenges of cardiovascular/cardiopulmonary emergencies.

~ MMR offers a computerized re-certification that can be completed at your convenience.

Please check the Schedules link to register for ACLS courses.