



**RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

Board Meeting Date: December 10, 2014

Subject: AHA BLS for Prehospital Provider Program

VTR#: 1214-01

Committee/Task Force: Medical Advisory

Recommended Goal

Recommended Policy Change

Other:

**Recommendation:**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should add the American Heart Association's "BLS for Prehospital Provider" to the list of approved courses for EMS providers.

**Rationale [Background]:**

The American Heart Association has revised their BLS for Healthcare Providers program to focus on the prehospital provider community. This includes prehospital-based scenarios and the option to present statewide resuscitation initiatives, e.g. pit-crew CPR. This course is presented in a hybrid fashion; the didactic portion is computer-based and psychomotor skills are practiced and evaluated in a classroom setting.

It's important to note that the core instructional content is consistent with that presented in the current BLS for Healthcare Providers course and upon successful completion of the course participants are still issued a BLS for Healthcare Providers wallet card.

**Medical Review [Concerns]:**

No concerns.

**Fiscal Concerns:**

No concerns.

**Educational Concerns:**

None – this course is simply an adaption of the BLS for Healthcare Providers course that focuses on prehospital providers. EMS providers can choose to complete this course, the current AHA health provider course or another approved EMS provider CPR course.

**Plan of Implementation:**

Upon approval the Department should update and distribute the list of approved CPR courses for EMS providers.

The PEHSC Committee/Task Force offers consultation to the Department in regard to the content of this Vote to Recommend (VTR) and its attached documents. The PEHSC Committee/Task Force specifically offers staff or member support to participate in Department deliberations regarding this recommendation in an effort to convey committee/task force discussions.

**Board Meeting Comments/Concerns:**

None.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
President

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For PEHSC Use Only – PA Department of Health Response

Accept: \_\_\_\_\_ Table: \_\_\_\_\_ Modify: \_\_\_\_\_ Reject: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Date of Department Response: \_\_\_\_\_

# Basic Life Support (BLS)



## for Prehospital Providers



Blended Learning

The BLS for Prehospital Providers Course, specifically designed to meet the needs of the EMS market, is the first of its kind in the AHA's lifesaving training portfolio.

This new course format consists of both online and classroom components, which leverages the “flipping of the classroom” educational trend. A combination of online and in-classroom training improves the learning experience and provides greater flexibility for students and Instructors, while still delivering hands-on instruction that is shown to enhance performance and improve outcomes in the field.

While tailored for prehospital providers, this course covers the same objectives as BLS for Healthcare Providers, and successful completion results in a BLS for Healthcare Providers course completion card.

### Course Covers

- 2010 American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR and ECC
- Critical concepts of High-Quality CPR and High Performance Teams
- The Chain of Survival
- 1- and 2-Rescuer CPR and AED for adult, child and infant
- Differences between adult, child and infant rescue techniques
- Bag-mask techniques for adult, child and infant
- Rescue breathing for adult, child and infant
- Relief of choking for adult, child and infant
- CPR with an advanced airway
- Ability to customize to local protocols

### Course Materials

For the BLS Instructor:

- 90-1087 BLS for Prehospital Providers Instructor Supplement (includes Instructor CD)
- 90-1086 BLS for Prehospital Providers Classroom DVD
- 90-1085 BLS for Prehospital Providers Instructor Packet (includes Instructor Supplement and CD, classroom DVD and one key to the online portion)

For the Student:

- 90-1433 BLS for Prehospital Providers Online Portion (students will receive their key directly from an AHA Training Center/Training Site after they register for the course)

### Primary Audience

BLS for Prehospital Providers is for prehospital, emergency care professionals including emergency medical technicians (EMTs), police officers, fire fighters, paramedics and advanced EMTs (AEMTs).



BLS for Prehospital Providers Course scenarios are modeled after real-life experiences these lifesavers face in the field.



[www.heart.org/cpr](http://www.heart.org/cpr)

For more information visit:

**CHANNING BETE COMPANY**  
PHONE: 800-611-6083 | [aha.channing-bete.com](http://aha.channing-bete.com)

**LAERDAL MEDICAL CORPORATION**  
PHONE: 888-562-4242 | [laerdal.com](http://laerdal.com)

**WORLDPOINT ECC, INC.**  
PHONE: 888-322-8350 | [eworldpoint.com](http://eworldpoint.com)

**Basic Life Support (BLS) for Prehospital Providers  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
As of August 6, 2014**

**Course Information**

**Q: What is the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course?**

A: The BLS for Prehospital Providers Course, specifically designed to meet the needs of the EMS market, is the first of its kind in the AHA's lifesaving training portfolio. This new course format consists of both online and classroom components, this course leverages the "flipping the classroom" educational trend. A combination of online and in-classroom training improves the learning experience and provides greater flexibility for students and Instructors, while still delivering hands-on instruction that is shown to enhance performance and improve outcomes in the field.

Successful completion of this course includes both an online portion and a classroom-based, BLS Instructor-led portion. Students must complete the online portion, including passing the online exam with a score of 84% or higher, before attending the classroom portion.

While tailored for prehospital providers, this course covers the same objectives as BLS for Healthcare Providers, and successful completion results in a BLS for Healthcare Providers course completion card.

**Q: What content is taught in the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course?**

A: Content includes the following:

- Science from the *2010 American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR and ECC*
- Critical concepts of high-quality CPR and high-performance teams
- The American Heart Association Chain of Survival
- 1- and 2-rescuer CPR and AED for adult, child and infant
- Differences between adult, child and infant rescue techniques
- Bag-mask techniques for adult, child and infant
- Rescue breathing for adult, child and infant
- Relief of choking for adult, child and infant
- CPR with an advanced airway

**Q: Why did the AHA create BLS for Prehospital Providers?**

A: To meet the needs of the Prehospital market. Recommendations from an EMS Advisory Council: we should design a specific BLS curriculum for pre-hospital providers that includes EMS specific tests, make the scenarios entirely EMS oriented and realistic to the pre-hospital environment

- Market is looking for high quality CPR training and BLS PHP focus to teach (defining individual roles in the choreography of high-impact CPR )
- Instructors want customizable training—introduced the concept of debriefing
- Training can be tailored to include local protocols
- Team-based CPR training improves outcomes in the field and in the community
- Preparing out-of-hospital professionals with the ability to recognize life-threatening emergencies, provide CPR, how to use an AED, and relieve choking in a safe, timely, and relevant manner.

**Q: Who is the target audience for the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course?**

A: BLS for Prehospital Providers is for prehospital, emergency care professionals including emergency medical technicians (EMTs), police officers, fire fighters, flight nurses, paramedics and advanced EMTs (AEMTs). This course is recommended for those who have previously received training in BLS and CPR.

**Q: What are the differences between this course and BLS for Healthcare Providers?**

**A: Key differences include the following:**

- BLS for Prehospital Providers is focused on the provider who works in the field. All scenarios are modeled after real-life experiences that they may actually face.
- BLS for Prehospital Providers presents core material online, and then Instructors provide coaching and support for hand-on skills in class
- BLS for Prehospital Providers includes Instructor-led discussions and debriefing
- There is no student manual for PHP; all student content is contained within the online portion
- BLS for Prehospital Providers includes discussions of high-performance teams and how they can improve survival rates

**Q: What are the similarities between this course and BLS for Healthcare Providers?**

**A: Similarities between the two BLS courses include the following:**

- Both courses have the same course objectives and cover the same content
- Upon successful completion of all course components, both courses result in a BLS for Healthcare Providers course completion card
- Both courses include the same skills testing criteria
- Course time for BLS for Prehospital Providers (online and classroom portions) is similar to classroom time for BLS for Healthcare Providers
- Existing BLS Instructors can teach both courses

**Q: What is the format of the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course?**

**A:** Students first complete the BLS for PHP Online Portion, which presents all cognitive information, and must pass the online exam with a score of 84% or higher. Upon completion of the online portion, a certificate of completion is available and must be printed and presented for entry into the BLS for Prehospital Providers classroom portion.

Students then attend the in-classroom portion, led by an AHA BLS Instructor. The classroom portion features Instructor-led discussions, debriefing, coaching and support for hand-on skills. The classroom portion of the course includes skills practice and testing.

**Q: What skills are tested during the skills sessions?**

**A:** During skills testing, students must successfully demonstrate competency performing the following skills:

- 1-and-2-Rescuer Adult BLS (includes CPR w/pocket mask, AED use and use of a bag-mask device)
- 1-and-2-Rescuer Infant BLS (includes CPR w/pocket mask and use of a bag-mask device)

**Q: How many opportunities does a student have to pass the BLS for Prehospital Providers online exam?**

**A:** Students have up to two opportunities to successfully pass the online exam with a score of 84% or higher.

**Q: After completion of the online portion of the course, how long does a student have to complete the classroom portion?**

**A:** Students must complete the classroom portion of BLS for Prehospital Providers within 60 days of completing the online portion of the course.

**Q: What are the course completion requirements for BLS for Prehospital Providers?**

**A:** For successful course completion, students must

- Complete the online portion and pass the online exam with a minimum score of 84%
- Actively participate in the case discussions during the classroom portion
- Actively participate in the rescue breathing skills station and cardiac arrest case simulations during the classroom portion
- Pass the skills tests in 1- and 2-rescuer child BLS with AED and 1- and 2-rescuer infant BLS

Upon successful completion of all course components, students receive a BLS for Healthcare Providers course completion card, valid for two years

**Q: Approximately how long does the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course take to complete?**

A: For the online portion, students will require approximately 30-90 minutes, depending on familiarity with content and use with a computer.

The classroom portion of the course will take approximately two hours, 15 minutes for skilled students, with no optional modules. The course could take up to three hours with unskilled students, covering all optional modules, including time for remediation. Classroom portion times are based on a recommended ratio of six students to one Instructor to one manikin per station.

**Q: Does successful completion of the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course result in an AHA course completion card?**

A: Yes. Students who successfully complete the requirements of the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course will receive an AHA BLS for Healthcare Providers course completion card, valid for two years.

**Q: Why do students receive the same course completion card for BLS for Prehospital Providers as they do for BLS for Healthcare Providers?**

A: BLS for Prehospital Providers has the same course objectives as BLS for Healthcare Providers. However, scenes and scenarios are modeled on the ones that prehospital providers may actually face.

**Q: Are continuing education (CE/CME) credits offered for BLS for Prehospital Providers?**

A: No.

**Q: Will the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course be translated? Into what languages will it be translated? When will translated editions be available?**

A: Currently, there are no plans to translate course materials for BLS for Prehospital Providers.

### **Course Materials**

**Q: What materials are available for the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course?**

A: Materials for this course include the following:

#### ***Student/Provider Materials:***

- 90-1433 BLS for Prehospital Providers Online Portion (special code required for purchase by AHA US Training Center Coordinators)

#### ***Instructor Materials***

- 90-1087 *BLS for Prehospital Providers Instructor Supplement* (includes Instructor CD), to be used in conjunction with the *BLS for Healthcare Providers Instructor Manual*
- 90-1086 BLS for Prehospital Providers Classroom DVD
- 90-1085 BLS for Prehospital Providers Instructor Packet (includes Instructor Supplement and CD, classroom DVD and one key to online portion)

#### ***Card***

- 90-1801 (3-card sheet) or 90-1802 (2-card self-mailer) BLS for Healthcare Providers course completion card

**Q: Is there a student manual for the course?**

A: No, all student content is contained within the BLS for Prehospital Providers Online Portion.

**Q: What is included on the Instructor CD that comes with the *BLS for Prehospital Providers Instructor Supplement*?**

A: The CD includes the following key resources:

Precourse Material

- Equipment List
- Sample Precourse Student PHP Letter

**Instructor CD contents, continued:**

Course Material

- Adult BLS w/AED Skills Testing: 1-and-2 Rescuer
- BLS PHP Lesson Plans
- 1-and-2 Rescuer Infant BLS Skills Testing
- Team Diagram

Other Resources

- HCP Summary of steps of CPR
- BLS PHP Video chapters and corresponding Lesson Plans
- ECC websites for Instructors

**Q: Will the contents of the Instructor CD also be posted to the AHA Instructor Network?**

A: The course evaluation, equipment checklist, skills testing checklist, course roster, team diagram and questions for discussion will be posted to [the AHA Instructor Network](#) under Courses > BLS > BLS for Prehospital Providers > Course Resources. Lesson Plans will not be posted to the AHA Instructor Network.

**Q: What content is included on the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course DVD?**

A: Content includes:

- Introduction
- Chest Compressions for Adults
- Airway/Breathing
- Chest Compressions With Breaths
- 1-Rescuer Adult BLS
- Bag-Mask Ventilation for Adults
- Chest Compressions for Children
- Scenario 1: Cardiac Arrest in Vehicle
- High-Performance Teams Scenario
- 2-Finger Chest Compressions for
- Infants
- Bag-Mask Ventilation for Infants
- 2-Rescuer Infant CPR
- and 2-Rescuer Infant BLS
- Infant Choking
- Remediation (as needed)

**Q: What is the playability of the Course DVD?**

A: All AHA DVDs include voiceover, as well as English subtitles. To activate the subtitles, the user must selected subtitles as an option before starting the videos.

**Teaching BLS for Prehospital Providers**

**Q: Who can teach the BLS for Prehospital Providers classroom portion of the course?**

A: AHA BLS Instructors can teach this course. *It is strongly recommended the BLS Instructor has an EMS background or is part of an EMS system.*

**Q: What materials are necessary to teach BLS for Prehospital Providers?**

A: To teach this course, BLS Instructors will need, at a minimum, the *BLS for Prehospital Providers Instructor Supplement*, a *BLS for Healthcare Providers Instructor Manual* and the BLS for Healthcare Providers DVD. However, for added convenience, it is recommended that Instructors have the full BLS for Prehospital Providers Instructor Packet, which includes the Instructor supplement and CD, the classroom DVD and one key to the online portion.

**Q: How will BLS Instructors be updated on the new curriculum and materials for the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course?**

A: The AHA has created a “product orientation” to introduce all BLS Instructors to the new BLS for Prehospital Providers curriculum and materials. This product orientation is available through the [AHA Instructor Network](#). It is not mandatory that Instructors review this orientation or provide documentation to their Training Centers; however, it is highly recommended. For best results, BLS Instructors should have a copy of the BLS for the Prehospital Provider Course materials for reference while viewing the orientation.

#### **Purchasing Materials/Finding Classes**

**Q: How do students access the BLS for Prehospital Providers Online Portion?**

A: Students first must register for the entire BLS for Prehospital Providers Course with an authorized AHA BLS Training Center that is offering the course. Once registered/signed up, students receive a key to the BLS for Prehospital Providers Online Portion from their Training Center or their Instructor. The diagram below illustrates the process for taking the course:

**Q: How do AHA Training Centers and Instructors purchase course materials for BLS for Prehospital Providers?**

A: Online keys for the BLS for Prehospital Providers Online Portion are available for purchase only by authorized AHA BLS Training Center Coordinators. To order, Training Center Coordinators must provide a special purchase code to their Distributor. This code can be found on the AHA Instructor Network at Training Centers > TCC Tools > Additional Tools & Info. Training Center Coordinators may provide this code to their Instructors if they wish for their Instructors to handle purchasing of keys for the online portion. Training Center Coordinators (or their Instructors) are then responsible for providing online keys for the online portion of the course to students once students have registered for the complete course with BLS Training Centers offering the course.

Instructor materials for the BLS for Prehospital Providers Course (Instructor Supplement, DVD and Instructor Packet) can be purchased (without using a code) from any of AHA's three product [Distributors](#) (Channing Bete, Laerdal and WorldPoint).

**Q: How do I find a Training Center offering BLS for Prehospital Providers in my local area?**

A: To find a Training Center near you, please use the Find A Course tool at [www.heart.org/cpr](http://www.heart.org/cpr).

#### **Questions about the Online Portion & OnlineAHA.org**

**Q: Can a student log in and out of the course?**

A: Yes. Students can log in and out as many times as they choose. However, the written test must be taken in one sitting. To log out, students must click the "Click here to logout" link located at the top of the page after login. When the student is ready to continue training, he/she can return to OnlineAHA.org and login with his/her registered email and password.

**Q: Can course material be accessed after the online portion is completed?**

A: Yes, students may access all material included in the BLS for Prehospital Providers Online Portion for 24 months (two years) following initial activation of their course key.

**Q: Does the BLS for Prehospital Providers Online Portion require special computer or support software?**

A: Onlineaha.org recommends using the following settings to maximize your eLearning experience. In addition, student and administrator hardware should meet the recommended requirements.

[Recommended Computer Requirements](#)

<b>Bandwidth</b>	240 Kb/s (30 KB/s) per user
<b>Connection</b>	Broadband/T1/Cable/DSL
<b>Operating System</b>	PC: At least Windows 2000 or later; <a href="#">Mac: Mac OSX or above.</a>
<b>Processor Speed</b>	500+ MHz Pentium
<b>RAM</b>	256+ MB RAM
<b>Web Browser</b>	Internet Explorer 8 or above, Google <a href="#">Chrome</a> and <a href="#">Mozilla Firefox</a>
<b>Plug-Ins</b>	Flash 10 or above
<b>Speakers/Headphones</b>	Recommended
<b>Soundcard</b>	Recommended

**Q: Whom should I contact if I have technical problems with the BLS for Prehospital Providers Online Portion?**

A: For technical problems with this program, contact [OnlineAHA.org](#) technical support at 888.AHA.8883 (888-242-8883) or via email at [help.onlineaha@heart.org](mailto:help.onlineaha@heart.org). Customer support is available 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Central Time, Monday – Friday.