

**2012 Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition, and Stabilization (PEARS®)  
Classroom Course and Materials  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
As of August 31, 2016**

**Course Information**

**Q: What is the PEARS Course?**

A: The American Heart Association's PEARS Course has been updated to reflect science in the *2010 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (2010 AHA Guidelines for CPR & ECC)*.

This classroom, video-based, instructor-led course helps healthcare providers develop the knowledge and skills needed for emergency evaluation and initial stabilization of seriously ill infants and children. PEARS teaches students how to recognize respiratory distress, shock and cardiac arrest and provide appropriate lifesaving interventions within the initial minutes of response until the child is transferred to an advanced life support provider. It also emphasizes the resuscitation team concept.

The goal of the PEARS Course is to improve the quality of care provided to seriously ill or injured infants and children, resulting in improved outcomes. Once a child is in cardiac arrest, even with optimal resuscitation efforts, outcome is generally poor. According to the *2010 AHA Guidelines for CPR and ECC*, only 4% to 13% of children who have a cardiac arrest in the out-of-hospital setting survive to hospital discharge. The outcome is somewhat better for children in the in-hospital setting: about 27% survive to hospital discharge.

**Q: Specifically, what content is taught in the PEARS classroom course?**

A: Content presented in PEARS includes

- Pediatric assessment
- Recognition and management of respiratory problems
- Recognition and management of shock
- Recognition and management of cardiac arrest
- Resuscitation team concept

**Q: What is different about the 2011 PEARS Course versus the 2006 course?**

A: The 2011 PEARS Course is updated to reflect the *2010 AHA Guidelines for CPR & ECC*. Some of the key science and course changes include

- Recommendation for immediate chest compressions for a child who is unresponsive and not breathing or only gasping (C-A-B vs A-B-C)
- Continued emphasis on high-quality CPR, including minor changes to depth of compressions
- Recommendations about the use of an AED for infants
- Emphasis on a systematic approach to caring for a seriously ill or injured child or infant:
  - *Evaluate* the child by gathering information about the child's condition
  - *Identify* a respiratory problem, a circulatory problem or both
  - *Intervene* with lifesaving actions to treat the problem
- Focus on assessment and recognition early in the course
- Emphasis on teamwork and debriefing
- Options for Instructors to conduct BLS competency testing during the course
- Two team dynamics lessons to accommodate both in- and out-of-hospital settings
- New trauma segment
- Optional practice with respiratory and circulatory equipment

**Q: Who is the target audience for the PEARS Course?**

A: PEARS is for healthcare providers such as emergency medical technicians (EMTs), medical and surgical nurses, school nurses and any other healthcare providers who infrequently see critically ill infants and children.

**Q: What is the format of the PEARS Course?**

A: PEARS is a classroom-based, Instructor-led course. In the course, skills are taught in large-group sessions and small-group learning and testing stations where case-based scenarios are presented in the course video. The course includes skills practice and testing.

**Q: What are the course completion requirements for PEARS?**

A: For successful course completion, students must

- Actively participate in the case discussions
- Actively participate in the rescue breathing skills station and cardiac arrest case simulations
- Pass the skills tests in 1- and 2-rescuer child BLS with AED and 1- and 2-rescuer infant BLS
- Pass the video-based written exam with a minimum score of 84%

**Q: Approximately how long does the PEARS Course take to complete?**

A: Approximate course completion times are listed below. Times are based on a recommended ratio of 6 students to 1 Instructor to 1 manikin or station (the CPR section requires 1 Instructor and 2 manikins for 6 students per station). Also, Instructors may choose to test CPR skills in the BLS Competency lesson or Team Dynamics Practice: Cardiac Arrest Cases. Using different ratios will result in increased course completion times.

- Full course option 1 (following the BLS Competency lesson): 6 hours 5 minutes, plus additional time for breaks and lunch
- Full course option 2 (with CPR testing during Team Dynamics Practice: Cardiac Arrest Cases): 6 hours 30 minutes, plus additional time for breaks and lunch
- Update course option 1: 5 hours 20 minutes, plus additional time for breaks and lunch
- Update course option 2: 6 hours 10 minutes, plus additional time for breaks and lunch

**Q: Does successful completion of the PEARS Course result in an AHA course completion card?**

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

**Q: Are there prerequisites for taking the PEARS Course?**

A: Before taking PEARS, students should have a mastery of infant and child BLS skills, including how to perform CPR and use an AED.

**Q: Are continuing education (CE/CME) credits offered for the PEARS classroom course?**

A: The CE listed below is available for EMS providers for the PEARS and PEARS Update Courses. Because the CE approval process for nurses and physicians is much more involved, credit for these professions will not be available through the AHA at this time and should be applied for by the Training Center.

***PEARS Course***

**Continuing Education Accreditation—Emergency Medical Services**

This continuing education activity is approved by the American Heart Association, an organization accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Prehospital Continuing Education (CAPCE), for 6.00 Basic CEHs, activity number 12-AMHA-F2-0153.

***PEARS Update Course***

**Continuing Education Accreditation—Emergency Medical Services**

This continuing education activity is approved by the American Heart Association, an organization accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Prehospital Continuing Education (CAPCE), for 5.50 Basic CEHs, activity number 12-AMHA-F2-0154.

## **Course Materials**

**Q: What new materials are available for the PEARS Course?**

A: Materials for the classroom course, updated to reflect the *2010 AHA Guidelines for CPR & ECC*, include

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

- 90-1061 *PEARS Provider Manual*; includes PEARS Pocket Reference Card (also sold separately)
- 90-1062 PEARS Pocket Reference Card

### ***Instructor Materials***

- 90-1064 PEARS DVD Set (three discs)
- 90-1063 *PEARS Instructor Manual*; includes Lesson Maps, Instructor CD, tabbed divider pages, scenario cards
- 90-1066 PEARS Instructor Package; includes
  - *PEARS Provider Manual* (90-1061)
  - *PEARS Instructor Manual* (90-1063)
  - Two PEARS DVD Sets (90-1064)
  - PEARS Posters (90-1065)
  - Stopwatch

### ***Supplemental Materials***

- 90-1065 PEARS Posters (set of eight)

### ***Cards***

- 90-1819 PEARS Provider Course Completion Cards (three-card sheet)

**Q: What is included on the Instructor CD that comes with the *PEARS Instructor Manual*?**

A: The CD includes the following key resources:

- Precourse materials (equipment list, sample agendas, precourse letters)
- Lesson Maps for full and update courses
- Skills Testing Sheets
- Scenario cards
- Links to relevant content on the AHA website

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

A: Forms, checklists and some other tools found on the Instructor CD will be posted to the AHA Instructor Network under Courses > PALS > PEARS > Course Resources. Lesson Maps will not be posted to the Instructor Network.

**Q: What content is included on each disc in the three-disc PEARS DVD Set?**

A: The content on each disc is listed below:

- Disc 1: PEARS Course Lessons 1-12
- Disc 2: PEARS Course Lessons 13-15
- Disc 3: PEARS Update Course (all lessons)

*Note:* The three-disc set comes in a triple-DVD case. The two PEARS Course discs are on the right side of the case, and the PEARS Update Course disc is on the left side, under the insert.

**Q: What materials must a student have to take the PEARS classroom course?**

A: To take the PEARS Course, each student must have access to his or her own *PEARS Provider Manual* before, during and after the class.

**Q: Is there a Student CD included in the *PEARS Provider Manual*?**

A: No, the 2012 Provider Manual does not include a Student CD. All information for students is in the Provider Manual.

## **Teaching PEARS**

**Q: Who can teach the PEARS classroom course?**

A: PALS and PEARS Instructors may teach this course.

**Q: What materials are necessary to teach PEARS?**

A: To teach the PEARS Course, PALS and PEARS Instructors must have, at a minimum, a *PEARS Instructor Manual*, a PEARS DVD Set and a stopwatch for testing. However, for added convenience and cost savings, it is recommended that Instructors have the full PEARS Instructor Package (90-1066), which contains the following tools:

- *PEARS Provider Manual* (90-1061)
- *PEARS Instructor Manual* (90-1063)
- Two PEARS DVD Sets (90-1064)
- PEARS Posters (90-1065)
- Stopwatch

Also, 2012 PEARS course completion cards must be issued. AHA course completion cards are issued through the Training Center with which the Instructor is aligned.

**Q: When must PALS Instructors begin teaching the PEARS Course according to the new curriculum and using new materials?**

A: PALS Instructors must begin teaching this classroom course according to the new curriculum and using new materials no later than 60 days after the release of the new course materials.

**Q: How will PALS Instructors be updated on the new curriculum and materials for the PEARS Course?**

A: The AHA has created a "product orientation" to introduce all PALS Instructors to the new PEARS curriculum and materials. This product orientation is a Windows Media Player or QuickTime presentation 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, PALS Instructors should have a copy of the PEARS Course materials for reference while viewing the orientation.

## **Course Completion Cards and Instructor Cards**

**Q: When do Training Center Coordinators and Instructors have to start using/issuing new PEARS course completion cards?**

A: Training Center Coordinators and Instructors should begin to use new PEARS course completion cards immediately upon release because new cards (1) indicate that the students have been trained according to the *2010 AHA Guidelines for CPR & ECC* and (2) include updated security features.

**Q: Do PALS Instructors need a new PALS Instructor card to continue teaching?**

A: No. It is not an AHA ECC requirement that Training Center Coordinators issue new PALS Instructor cards. New Instructor cards should be used as follows:

- New Instructor cards must be issued to new PALS Instructors who are trained after the release of new materials.
- New Instructor cards must be issued to PALS Instructors who complete their Instructor renewal requirements after the release of new PEARS classroom course materials.

## **Purchasing Materials/Finding Classes**

**Q: Where/how can I purchase new PEARS Course materials?**

A: AHA training products can be purchased from any of AHA's three trusted product [Distributors](#) (Channing Bete, Laerdal and WorldPoint).

**Q: How do I find a PEARS classroom course in my local area?**

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

**Technical Issues**

**Q: Whom should I contact if I have problems with PEARS materials?**

A: For problems with this product, customers should contact the AHA Distributor from whom they purchased the product (Channing Bete, Laerdal or WorldPoint).