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**Advanced Stroke Life Support (ASLS) Blended Learning Course
AHA ACLS Training Centers Webinars FAQs**
February 23 and 24, 2022

Q: What is the *ASLS Blended Learning Course*?

A: The *ASLS Blended Learning Course* will educate healthcare professionals to identify, evaluate, and manage patients with stroke. The ASLS Course was co-developed by the American Heart Association and The University of Miami's Gordon Center for Simulation and Innovation in Medical Education and is appropriate for all healthcare providers involved in the management of acute stroke patients. Three tracks are available for students to learn how to assess and manage stroke emergencies: 1) prehospital; 2) in-hospital; 3) prehospital and in-hospital.

Q: When will the *ASLS Blended Learning Course* launch?

A: The course will launch late spring 2022. However, applications for AHA ACLS Training Centers (TCs) to add the Stroke discipline are open now and can be submitted. For more information, please send an email to harold.kellogg@heart.org, and indicate "Request to Add AHA Stroke Discipline" in the subject line.

Q: What is the cost to add the new Stroke discipline to your AHA ACLS TC?

A: There is no cost associated with adding the new Stroke discipline to your ACLS TC.

Q: What will the costs be for the new *ASLS Blended Learning Course* materials?

A: The costs of the course materials are still being determined but will be similar to those of other AHA advanced courses, such as Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS).

Q: How do I find out when exact pricing and launch dates are determined?

A: Registering for one of the AHA ACLS TC webinars in February added you to the email distribution list to receive the official *ASLS Blended Learning Course* Product Announcement and other important updates relevant to this course. The official launch date and pricing will be announced approximately 30-60 days prior to launch.

Q: Will Continuing Education (CE) credits be offered for this course?

A: Yes, CE will be available for the following groups, although exact hours are still being determined. More CE credit options may be considered for other groups in the future depending on interest.

- EMS Providers
- Nurses
- Physicians
- Respiratory Therapists

Q: How long will a course completion card be valid for this course?

A: Upon course completion, an AHA ASLS Provider eCard will be issued for the version of the course that the student completed. This course completion card will be valid for two years.



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Course Information:

Q: What are the components of the skills evaluation portion of the *ASLS Blended Learning Course*?

A: The skills evaluation consists of three parts: a stroke scale demonstration, a stroke syndrome evaluation and a stroke simulation scenario.

In-person skills tests will challenge learners to apply the skills and knowledge obtained from the online portion to correctly perform neurologic exams, diagnose, and manage patients with stroke. Offering education on the most common stroke screening and severity tools, skills tests can be tailored to fit the tools used in local protocols.

Q: What type of equipment will be required to teach this course?

A: This course requires standardized patients or AHA Instructors serving as standardized actors for stroke symptoms. In addition, acute care equipment similar to those used for ACLS will be required. A simulation manikin may be used for the simulation scenario portion of the skills evaluation.

Q: What materials are included in the Instructor Package?

A: The following Instructor materials are included in this package:

- ASLS Instructor Manual eBook
- ASLS Provider Manual eBook
- ASLS Digital Course Videos
- ASLS Digital Reference Guide

Q: Do you have to have a simulation lab to do skills session?

A: No, but you do have to have access to all the equipment, a standardized patient (or Instructor), and for the simulation scenario, a standardized patient (or Instructor) or a simulation manikin.

Q: Is there an Instructor-led version of the AHA ASLS Course being offered? Is there a plan to do this type of course?

A: No. The only offering for the AHA ASLS Course will be the ASLS Blended Learning Course.

Q: What is the approximate length of the online portion of the course?

A: Students will complete the self-paced, online portion of the course, which will prepare them for the in-person skills evaluation session with an AHA ASLS Instructor. Because the online portion is adaptive, meaning that students follow a learning path personalized by their own inputs and self-reported confidence level, the time it takes to complete the online portion depends on the student's level of knowledge. Estimated completion times range as follows:

ASLS Online: Prehospital Provider: 3-6 hours

ASLS Online: In-Hospital Provider: 4-8 hours

ASLS Online: Prehospital & In-Hospital Provider: 5-9 hours



Q: What is the approximate length of time for the skills session portion of the course?

A: The in-person skills session should take approximately one hour per student. Students needing remediation will require longer for their in-person sessions.

Q: How can one determine how long an individual participant took to complete the online course?

A: The student completing the online module can view the length of time it took them to complete the course on the course dashboard.

Q: How long does a student have to complete the hands-on portion of the course after completing the online module?

A: Similar to the AHA's HeartCode® courses, there is no time limit to complete the hands-on session after completing the online module; however, it is recommended that the in-person session be completed soon after the online portion to ensure cognitive knowledge is retained.

Q: What are the prerequisites to become an ASLS Provider?

A: To become an ASLS Provider, students must be proficient in their Basic Life Support skills, and it is highly recommended that they also are proficient in their Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support skills. However, there is no prerequisite that students have a current BLS or ACLS Provider card.

Q: How do you become an ASLS Provider if this are no local TCs offering the course since it will be new this spring?

A: We are currently working to determine the optimal method of content delivery to launch the course, whether in-person, online, or through a combination of both.

Curriculum Questions:

Q: Does this course help us meet the education requirements for stroke center designations?

A: Yes. It can be used toward the education hours required for stroke center designations.

Q: Does it cover prehospital severity scales like FAST-ED and RACE?

A: Yes. It covers most of the commonly used stroke screening exams, and stroke severity scales used in stroke care (14 in total).

Q: Will the Adult Suspected Stroke Algorithm remain a component of ACLS?

A: Yes, the Adult Suspected Stroke Algorithm is part of the ASLS Blended curriculum.

Q: Is there a video segment for the part 2 like there is for the HeartCode® in-person skills sessions for BLS, ACLS, and PALS?

A: The ASLS Course videos are required for all ASLS Instructors. The hands-on skills session of ASLS is focused on skills testing, however it is required to have the videos available in the event a student needs remediation and additional skills demonstration.



Q: Do you suggest that all comprehensive stroke centers include this option for their staff? If so, what time frame would be expected?

A: The ASLS Blended Learning Course is the most comprehensive and standardized stroke education course available. All healthcare organizations that care for stroke patients should consider having their staff complete the course.

Q: Since stroke center certification is required on an annual basis, how will this course meet the need for hours attained hourly training since it offers a 2-year course completion card?

A: Completion of the ASLS Blended Learning Course annually will meet the annual requirement for stroke center certification. However, CE credits for completion of the ASLS Blended course can only be awarded every two years.

Q: Is the Team Dynamics concept included in the skills sessions?

A: The Team Dynamics concept is not covered in ASLS but is still a key concept in ACLS. Since ACLS proficiency is a highly recommended prerequisite for ASLS, this skill should already be known by the student.

Q: Would this be a course my ER Techs could take? Are EMTs of all levels eligible to take the class or only paramedics?

A: The ASLS Blended Learning Course is appropriate for all healthcare providers who care for patients with stroke or work in settings with patients who are at risk for stroke. However, continuing education credits are only offered for the groups noted above.

Q: Is this course designed to be able to take the place of other NIHSS trainings?

A: No, this course does not take the place of The National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) training. However, the NIHSS is included in the curriculum with videos showing how to do each component and in video case scenarios. Additionally, during the skills evaluation component, the NIHSS can be selected for stroke scale demonstration and stroke syndrome evaluation where a student will have an opportunity to perform the exam twice with feedback from the Instructor.

Instructor Training:

Q: What is the process to become a new ASLS Instructor during the initial launch phase?

A: We are currently working to determine the optimal method of content delivery to initially launch the Instructor course, whether in-person, online, or through a combination of both. More information about this process will be communicated to AHA ACLS TCs once it is available.

Q: Is there an *ASLS Instructor Essentials Course*?

A: Yes. There is an *ASLS Instructor Essentials Course* consisting of an online, self-directed portion followed by an in-person component that is taught by ASLS Faculty.

Q: What are the prerequisites to become an ASLS Instructor after the initial launch phase?

A: Learners must first successfully complete the *ASLS Blended Learning Course* and receive their ASLS Provider Card to become an ASLS Instructor. Interested ASLS Instructor Candidates must identify an ASLS



Training Center that is accepting new instructors, and then successfully complete the *ASLS Instructor Essentials Course*.

This course is comprised of two parts: a self-directed, online portion covering material about becoming an ASLS Instructor; and in-person portion conducted by ASLS Faculty where Instructor Candidates will learn to effectively evaluate ASLS students during their provider courses. Instructor Candidates must then be monitored by ASLS Faculty before teaching a course on their own.

Q: Does the TC Coordinator of an existing TC need to be an ASLS Instructor to add Stroke as a discipline? Or is it enough to have ASLS Instructors aligned with the AHA TC?

A: No, an AHA ACLS TC does not need to have either at this time, since Stroke is a new discipline for AHA ACLS TCs. The AHA is currently accepting applications from all AHA ACLS TCs interested in adding ASLS even if they currently do not have any ASLS Instructors.

Q: Do existing ACLS Instructors have to complete the *ASLS Instructor Essentials Course* to become ASLS Instructors?

A: Yes, existing ACLS Instructors will have to complete the ASLS Instructor Essentials Course to become ASLS Instructors.

Q: For those going through the initial ASLS Course, is there an RQI version of the course to renew/maintain their course completion card?

A: No, there is no RQI version of ASLS.

Q: What is the student-to-instructor ratio for the ASLS Blended Learning Course?

A: The student-to-instructor ratio is 1:1 for the skills evaluation component. However, TCs may schedule students in groups if they have the ability to set up multiple testing stations through which students rotate.

Q: What is the student-to-instructor ratio for the ASLS Instructor Essentials Course?

A: The student-to-instructor ratio is 6:1 for the Instructor Essentials in-person component.

Q: What if we do not have any ASLS Instructors at the present time?

A: Many AHA ACLS Training Centers will not currently have ASLS Instructors since Stroke is a new discipline to the AHA.

Q: Where can we obtain instructor materials?

A: This information will be available when the official AHA Product Announcements for this course are released, approximately 30-60 days in advance of the course launch.

Q: What is the process for becoming ASLS Faculty? To become Faculty, do you have to be an ASLS Instructor for 2 years first?

A: To become an ASLS Faculty, you must have completed provider and Instructor courses and be selected by your TC to have the faculty designation. You must be an active Instructor, but no minimum time period is required.



Q: Can an Instructor just be an ASLS Instructor? Or do they need be an Instructor for both ACLS and ASLS?

A: There is no prerequisite for instructors to be ACLS Instructors before becoming an ASLS Instructor.

LMS Considerations:

Q: Will the *ASLS Blended Learning Course* be available for purchase via Healthstream?

A: No. The *ASLS Blended Learning Course* will only be available from the AHA platform.

Q: Where will we purchase the online module? Will licenses for this course be managed in the AHA Training Central (elearning.heart.org)?

A: This information will be available when the official AHA Product Announcements for this course are released, approximately 30-60 days in advance of the course launch.