



American
Heart
Association.



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QUALITY IS EVERYTHING

When the health system opted for another training provider for BLS and ACLS (Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support), it didn’t take long to discover that the quality of their education, specifically BLS training, did not compare with the American Heart Association’s real patient video- and simulation-based training and practice-while-watching learning method, according to the health system’s clinical education coordinator. “Their BLS needed to be a lot stronger. If you could pass the hands-on skills and the written exam, you didn’t have to go through any of the classroom material or practice your skills. I would walk in and be done with my class in 15 minutes — once every two years,” she said. “In my opinion, everyone needs to practice BLS. It’s been proven time and again to be our weakest link. There was simply too much leeway.”

In the meantime, the American Heart Association updated its resuscitation courses to include an emphasis on a team-based approach. Classes also became more flexible, allowing for more customization. Leadership in the health system’s simulation and training departments began to realize they were missing out on being part of the research process with the Association. At the same time, they found the Association’s updated curriculum to be much more appealing. “Our team recognized that the American Heart Association’s BLS program was much stronger, and that is where many of our errors occur,” the clinical education coordinator said.

The decision was made to return to the Association for all of their resuscitation training. The health system’s education had transitioned to simulation-based — which is grounded in evidence-based practice. “The American Heart Association is the standard everyone recognizes when it comes to evidence-based practice and research, and that’s something we wanted to be a part of,” she said.

The health system’s simulation and training department leadership and staff are excited for what’s ahead as they continue to work alongside the American Heart Association. “The Association’s evidence-based, standardized training is something that you may not get from another provider,” said the clinical education coordinator. “This move back to the American Heart Association made sense for everyone, and we’re planning on staying right where we’re at.”