

PALS Plus® Course FAQs



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As of April 28, 2026

Q: What is the PALS Plus Course?

A: The American Heart Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) have collaborated to develop a new program called PALS Plus. The PALS Plus Course is a pediatric advanced life support (PALS) course for more experienced pediatric healthcare professionals seeking advanced educational content. The course teaches more than the standard PALS curriculum and includes nine additional modules related to pediatric emergencies.

The full course includes an online portion consisting of HeartCode® PALS Online and the student's selection of at least six of the nine PALS Plus Advanced Modules, combined with a HeartCode PALS skills session with an Instructor.

After successful completion of all PALS Plus Provider Course components, students will receive a PALS Plus Provider eCard (a PALS Provider eCard with a special designation of "PALS Plus"), valid for two years.

A PALS Plus Provider eCard is only available for students that have completed the PALS Plus Provider Course.

Q: What is the difference between HeartCode PALS and the PALS Plus Course?

A: The PALS Plus Course extends HeartCode learning beyond the standard PALS curriculum by adding online modules focused on specific specialty areas related to pediatric emergent and critical conditions. There are nine online modules and students must complete at least six of the nine modules in addition to HeartCode PALS for completion of PALS Plus.

Students who complete the online components of PALS Plus, followed by an in-person skills session (HeartCode PALS Skills Session) with a Heart Association PALS Instructor receive a PALS Provider eCard with the PALS Plus designation.

Q: What topics are available as advanced modules in the PALS Plus Course?

A: Students may select from the following modules:

- Advanced Airway Management
- Child Abuse
- Toxicology
- Trauma—Overview and Approach
- Technologically Dependent Child
- Sedation and Analgesia
- Post-Cardiac Arrest Care
- Ultrasound
- Congenital Heart Disease

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Q: What are some of the key features of the PALS Plus Course?

A: Features of 2025 HeartCode PALS Online and the PALS Plus Advanced Modules include:

- Engaging, **True Adaptive™** learning experience
- **Responsive design** that ensures compatibility with mobile devices and tablets
- Students can select their **level of competence** as they begin the course, and can change their selection at any time during the course
- All curriculum is web-accessible through inclusive design (WCAG 2.1 AA)
- Works on all common browsers

Course Length

Q: How long does it take to complete the online portion of the PALS Plus Course?

A: Because of the adaptive technology used in HeartCode PALS and the PALS Plus Advanced Modules, the completion time for the online portion of the PALS Plus Course varies based on the student's self-assessment and knowledge of the cognitive material.

Q: What is the length of the HeartCode PALS Instructor-led hands-on skills session?

A: The approximate time for the Instructor-led hands-on skills session for HeartCode PALS is 4-5 hours.

Accessing the PALS Plus Course

Q: How do students access the online portion of the PALS Plus Course?

A: Once a student either is issued or purchases a license for the PALS Plus Course, the student will go to eLearning.heart.org to activate the license and complete the online course. Licenses can be purchased by either students or Instructors.

PALS Plus Course Completion Requirements

Q: What are the steps for students to complete the PALS Plus Course?

A: Upon completion of both HeartCode PALS and at least six of the advanced modules, students will receive a certificate of completion. They must present both the HeartCode PALS and the advanced modules certificates of completion for entry into an Instructor-led hands-on skills session. Upon successful completion of the skills session, students will receive their PALS eCard with a PALS Plus designation.

Q: Can I sign up for any HeartCode PALS Instructor-led hands-on skills session?

A: Not at this time. Please contact your Heart Association Training Center first to see if the PALS Plus certificate is currently being offered. Please note: PALS Plus is not currently listed as a separate course in the Atlas Find a Class tool.

Q: How can Instructors verify the authenticity of certificates of completion for the online portion

A: Instructors can verify completion certificates at eLearning.Heart.org/verify_certificate. HeartCode PALS and the advanced modules will be two separate completion certificates.

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PALS Plus Course Target Audience

Q: Who is the intended audience for the PALS Plus Course?

A: The PALS Plus Course is for healthcare professionals who either direct or participate in the management of respiratory and/or cardiovascular emergencies, cardiopulmonary arrest, and other emergent and critical conditions in pediatric patients. This includes personnel in emergency response, emergency medicine, intensive care, and critical care units such as physicians, physician assistants, hospitalists, advanced practice/registered nurses, advanced level prehospital providers, and others who desire additional advanced educational content beyond the traditional PALS course.

Q: Is continuing education (CE) offered for the PALS Plus Course?

A: Yes. For specific CE information, please see the PALS Plus Course listing at eLearning.Heart.org or ShopCPR.Heart.org.