

CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

As of August 29, 2017

Course Information

Q: What is the AHA's Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition, and Stabilization (PEARS) Provider Course?

A: The AHA's PEARS Course has been updated to reflect science in the *2015 AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and ECC*.

This 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. The PEARS Course teaches students how to recognize respiratory distress, shock, and cardiac arrest and provide appropriate lifesaving interventions within the initial minutes of response until the pediatric patient is transferred to an advanced life support provider.

Q: Why did the AHA create the PEARS Provider Course?

A: The goal of the PEARS Provider Course is to improve the quality of care provided to seriously ill or injured infants and children, resulting in improved outcomes.

Q: Specifically, what content is taught in the PEARS Course?

A: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- Perform BLS consistent with the *2015 AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and ECC*
- Evaluate a seriously ill or injured child by using the pediatric systematic approach
- Apply effective team dynamics
- Demonstrate initial stabilization of a seriously ill or injured child, including a child with cardiac arrest, respiratory distress, or shock

Q: What is new/different in the 2015 Guidelines PEARS Course?

A: In addition to science updates to reflect the *2015 AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and ECC*, key concepts and/or changes include

- Continued emphasis on high-quality CPR, with limited interruptions in chest compressions
- Recommendations about the use of an AED for infants
- Required skills practice for respiratory and shock stations
- **Improved design** – follows steps in the order performed in the patient care setting, incorporates a variety of teaching methods and adult learning principles in an environment that simulates a real healthcare setting
- **Course options for the Instructor and student flexibility** – designed to increase options for Instructors and provide course flexibility to meet the learning needs of individual students; group sizes can be reduced for greater Instructor-student interaction; course may be tailored to meet audience-specific needs
- **Local protocols and scope of practice flexibility** – local protocol discussions have been built into some of the lessons; an increased number of case scenarios in four different settings include a more diverse audience and help with the high-performance team concept for professionals who have varying scopes of practice
- **New design for teaching the Pediatric Systematic Approach** – new design for teaching the systematic approach; students should be encouraged to use a "3-step approach" to perform the Pediatric Assessment Triangle
- **Video case discussions** – new video case discussions have been added to the assessment, respiratory, and shock videos; dynamic, thought-provoking examples of real pediatric emergency cases are used to engage students and confirm their understanding of the educational material

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- **Enhanced methods for teaching “Putting It All Together”** – Putting It All Together gives students the opportunity to work as a team by using a minimum of eight scenario simulations; Instructors provide more information about the patient’s condition as it’s asked for by the students to simulate real-life case scenarios.

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

A: The AHA’s PEARS Course is for healthcare providers and others who infrequently see critically ill infants and children. This audience could include

- Physicians and nurses not specializing in pediatrics
- Nurse practitioners
- Physician assistants
- Emergency medical technicians
- Respiratory therapists
- Prehospital and in-hospital healthcare providers (outside of critical-care areas)
- Outpatient clinic staff
- School-based providers

Q: What is the format of the PEARS Provider 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 using the course video. The PEARS Course includes child and infant BLS 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 with optional lessons: 7 hours, 45 minutes, plus additional time for breaks and lunch
- Full course without optional lessons: 7 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 child and infant BLS skills, including how to perform CPR and use an AED.

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Q: Are continuing education (CE/CME) credits offered for the PEARS Provider Course?

A: Yes, the AHA offers the following CE for the PEARS Provider 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 7.25 Advanced CEHs, activity number 17-AMHA-F2-0024.

Course Materials

Q: What materials are available for the PEARS Course?

A: Materials for the classroom course, updated to reflect the *2015 AHA Guidelines for CPR and ECC*, include

Student Materials

- 15-1052 *PEARS Provider Manual*; includes PEARS Pocket Reference Card (also sold separately)
- 15-1053 PEARS Pocket Reference Card
- 15-3123 PEARS Provider Manual eBook
- 15-3124 PEARS Digital Reference Card

Instructor Materials

- 1055 PEARS Course DVD (single disc)
- 1054 *PEARS Instructor Manual*; includes Lesson Plans, Instructor CD, tabbed divider pages
- 15-3125 PEARS Instructor Manual eBook
- 1057 *PEARS Instructor Package*; includes:
 - *PEARS Provider Manual* (15-1052)
 - *PEARS Instructor Manual* (15-1054)
 - PEARS Course DVD (15-1055)
 - PEARS Posters (15-1056)

Supplemental Materials

- 1056 PEARS Posters (set of nine)

Cards

- 15-1809 PEARS Provider Course Completion Card
- 15-3008 PEARS Provider eCard
- 15-1808 PEARS Instructor Card

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)
- 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 additional tools found on the Instructor CD are posted on the PEARS Course page on the [AHA Instructor Network](#).

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Q: What content is included on the PEARS Course DVD?

A: The PEARS Course DVD includes the following video segments:

- Life is Why
- Course Overview
- Science of Pediatric Resuscitation
- Basic Life Support (Child and Infant)
- Systematic Approach
- Management of Respiratory Emergencies
- Management of Shock Emergencies
- Team Dynamics

In addition, the PEARS DVD includes Case Discussions, Exam Videos, and Optional Videos.

Q: What materials does a student need to take the PEARS Provider Course?

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

Teaching PEARS

Q: Who can teach the PEARS classroom course?

A: AHA 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 Course DVD, and a stopwatch for testing. For added convenience and cost savings, Instructors may purchase the PEARS Instructor Package (15-1057), which contains the following tools:

- *PEARS Provider Manual* (15-1052)
- *PEARS Instructor Manual* (15-1054)
- PEARS Course DVD (15-1055)
- PEARS Posters (15-1056)

Q: When must PALS and PEARS Instructors begin teaching the 2015 Guidelines PEARS Course and using new materials?

A: Effective October 30, 2017, only new course materials can be used to conduct the PEARS Course.

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

A: The AHA has developed the PEARS Product & Course Orientation (P&CO) video to help Instructors understand new 2015 Guidelines course design and teaching strategies, and to quickly get up to speed on the latest and most important updates to course materials.

All PALS and PEARS Instructors are strongly encouraged to view the PEARS P&CO before teaching the new PEARS Course; however, viewing is not required. Viewing the P&CO will be most helpful to Instructors if they have new course materials in-hand.

Purchasing Materials/Finding Classes

Q: Where 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).

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Q: How do I find a PEARS Course near me?

A: To find an AHA Training Center near you, please use the Find a Course tool at 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).