

UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE
HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

HOUSESTAFF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ACLS/PALS TRAINING FOR HOUSESTAFF

Section 1 No. 4 Rev. 11 Review Date: July 2009 Revision Date: September 2009
Chapter: Conditions for Employment

I. PURPOSE:

To establish a protocol for the training and retraining in ACLS/PALS for housestaff.

II. POLICY:

This policy is consistent with the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Education Protocol policy of the University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics, Policy No. 1-26, as it pertains to housestaff.

All newly hired housestaff at PGY1 level will have as a credentialing requirement current ACLS (or PALS for Pediatric residents). (Pathology PGY1 new hires are exempt from the ACLS requirement; see "Program Requirements" below.)

Current certification for newly hired housestaff at level PGY2 (or above) in ACLS (or PALS for Pediatric residents or fellows) will be a credentialing requirement for specific programs as identified in this policy (see "Program Requirements" below). Newly hired housestaff at level PGY2 (or above) in "Excluded Programs" (see "Program Requirements" below) will be required to provide, as a credentialing requirement, documentation of ACLS (or PALS) certification that may be expired.

Continuing housestaff at all levels will be required to maintain current ACLS certification (or PALS for Pediatric residents or fellows) if they are enrolled in a program that is required to maintain current certification as identified below in this policy. Continuing housestaff enrolled in an "Excluded Program" identified below in this policy will not be required to maintain current ACLS (or PALS) certification (see "Program Requirements" below).

All ACLS and PALS, and other cardiopulmonary resuscitation certifications must be through an American Heart Association approved provider. It is the policy of The American Heart Association and of University of Utah Clinical Staff Education that no "grace period" is granted after expiration of a certification. If renewal is required and if a certification has expired, then a new provider course will be required to maintain current certification.

III. PROCEDURE:

Incoming interns, residents, and fellows must meet ACLS/PALS certification requirements before their credentialing is considered complete. Incoming interns, residents, and fellows who are not in compliance with ACLS/PALS certification requirements may have their hire dates deferred until these requirements are met. If requirements cannot be met within a time frame acceptable to the

program director, the program director will have the option of nullifying the Housestaff Agreement (contract) and the intern/resident/fellow will not be hired.

Continuing residents and fellows are required to maintain current ACLS/PALS certification as stated above in the "Policy" section. Failure to maintain required certifications may result in removal from clinical rotations and/or suspension and/or other disciplinary action.

The Graduate Medical Education Office will monitor certification requirements of incoming housestaff, certifications as required for continuing housestaff, and will provide reminders of expirations to continuing housestaff.

Because current ACLS/PALS certification (as identified in this policy) are institutional requirements, program directors must allow housestaff to take time off from their training responsibilities in order to maintain current certification requirements. The Graduate Medical Education Office will provide reminders of expiration dates early enough for housestaff to appropriately schedule time off for certification courses.

NOTE: Although BLS is not an institutional requirement of the University of Utah Medical Center, it is a requirement of the VA Medical Center and housestaff who do rotations at the VA Medical Center will be required to provide documentation of current BLS certification to that institution.

IV. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- A. Current ACLS (PALS for Pediatrics) Required: All new hires at all levels in all programs and continuing residents at all levels in all programs unless specifically excluded in "B" or "C" below.
- B. EXCLUDED PROGRAMS: Documentation of previous ACLS (PALS for Pediatrics) but not required to be current (new hires and continuing housestaff):
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|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dermatology | Infectious Diseases | Neurology |
| Geriatrics | Medical Genetics | Neurology Fellowships |
| Radiation Oncology | Occupational Medicine | Psychiatry (except PGY1) |
| Child Psychiatry | PM&R | Diagnostic Radiology |
| Rheumatology | Sleep Medicine | Radiology Fellowships |
| | Family Medicine Fellowships | |
- (Although current ACLS/PALS is not required for these programs, residents are encouraged to maintain ACLS/PALS certification.)
- C. Exempt from ACLS/PALS documentation requirement:
- | | |
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| Pathology | Pathology Fellowships |
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Policy Owner: Graduate Medical Education

Historical Information:

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