I. PURPOSE:
To establish a protocol for the training and retraining in ACLS/PALS certifications for residents.

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 residents.

All interns, residents, and fellows in Graduate Medical Education “Included Programs” (see “Program Requirements” below) are required to maintain current ACLS or PALS (or both) certification at all times during their training and to provide the Graduate Medical Education Office with documentation of current certification. Interns who are enrolled in an “Excluded Program” (see “Program Requirements” below) but whose primary training in their first year is in an “Included Program” must meet the requirement of the “Included Program” during the preliminary training year. Interns, residents, and fellows who are in “Excluded Programs” are exempt from ACLS/PALS certification requirements.

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 in “Included Programs” 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 certifications as required for continuing residents, and will provide reminders of expirations to continuing
Because current ACLS/PALS certifications (as identified in this policy) are institutional requirements, program directors must allow residents 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 residents to appropriately schedule time off for certification courses.

IV. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

A. INCLUDED PROGRAMS:

The following programs are required to maintain current ACLS (and/or PALS for *Pediatrics, *MedPeds, *Triple Board, and *Child Neurology):

- Anesthesiology
- Cardiology
- Cardiology Electrophysiology
- Cardiology Interventional
- Cardiology Transplant
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Emergency Medicine
- General Surgery
- Internal Medicine Residency
- Neurosurgery
- Neurology
- Neuro Critical Care
- Anesthesiology Pain Management
- Pulmonary/Critical Care
- Surgery Critical Care
- *Pediatrics (PALS only)
- *Child Neurology (PALS only)
- *MedPeds (ACLS and PALS)
- *Triple Board (PALS)

B. Programs not specifically named above are considered “Excluded” programs—see “Policy” section above. However, training programs (not mentioned above) may have specific requirements outside the scope of this policy.

C. As of March 2016, the VA Medical Center will follow GME Policy 1.4, ACLS Conditions for Employment, to determine resident certification requirements.

D. The certification card must state that it was issued by one of the following: AHA Learn & Live, Military Training Network, or Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada. Residents/fellows will be required to retake the course if certification was issued by a different entity.

V. RESPONSIBILITY FOR FEES

Residents are responsible for all fees associated with BLS/ACLS/PALS courses, whether at University Hospital, an affiliated hospital, or another location. If a resident cannot attend a reserved course due to clinical scheduling or emergent circumstances, the resident is expected to cancel the reservation or assume responsibility for no-show fees assessed by the training location. In the case of no-show fees assessed by University Hospital Clinical Staff Education, if such fees are not satisfied by the resident within 60 days of notification, such fees may be deducted from the resident’s payroll.

Approval body: Medical Board December 12, 1984, and January 6, 1992, Graduate Medical Education Committee
Approval date: 3/06
Policy Owner: Graduate Medical Education

Historical Information:
Review dates: 4/05, 3/06, 4/07, 6/07, 7/09, 12/09, 9/10, 1/2011
Approval dates: