POLICY: ALS/ PALS CERTIFICATION
Policy Number: 1.4
Chapter: Conditions for Employment

Purpose:
To establish a protocol for the training and retraining in ALS/PALS certifications for GME trainees.

Definitions:
A. American Heart Association (AHA) – AHA is the approved foundation whose guidelines are followed by University of Utah Health.
B. Basic Life Support (BLS) – care that first-responders provide to anyone experiencing cardiac arrest, respiratory distress or an obstructed airway.
C. Advanced Life Support (ALS) – ALS includes BLS along with elements of specialized care and equipment as defined by AHA guidelines.
D. Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) – BLS along with elements of care specific to the pediatric patient as defined by AHA guidelines.
E. Graduate Medical Education (GME)
F. Learning Management System (LMS) – University of Utah Health’s approved software application for the administration, documentation, and delivery of education courses or training programs.
G. Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI) – AHA’s approved software application system that implements documentation, tracking and reporting of the certifications. LMS data reports back to RQI.

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 trainees.
A. All trainees in Graduate Medical Education (GME) “Included Programs” (see “Program Requirements” below) are required to maintain current ALS or PALS (or both) certification at all times during their training. PGY1s 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. Trainees in “Excluded Programs” must follow their department certification requirements.

B. In order to be added to the “Included Programs” list, GME programs must provide documentation from ACGME stating that ALS and/or PALS is a required certification.

C. For budgeting purposes, any changes will not be reflected until the beginning of the following fiscal year.

D. The GME Office pays all RQI fees for trainees in “Included Programs”.

E. The GME Office will not enroll/pay for trainees in excluded programs who choose to moonlight at a location where ALS/PALS is required.

F. Excluded programs that choose to require ALS and/or PALS may contact the CPR Committee Chair to enroll their trainees and pay the course fees.

PROCEDURE

A. Incoming trainees in “Included Programs” will be assigned the appropriate module(s) and have the same deadline as all current trainees.

B. If requirements cannot be met within a time frame acceptable to the program director, the program director will have the option of nullifying the Trainee Agreement (contract) and the trainee will not be hired.

C. Continuing trainees are required to maintain current ALS/PALS certification as stated above in the “Policy” section.

D. Failure to maintain required certifications may result in removal from clinical rotations and/or suspension and/or other disciplinary action.

E. The GME Office will monitor certifications as required for continuing trainees and will provide reminders of expirations to continuing trainees.

F. Because current ALS/PALS certifications (as identified in this policy) are institutional requirements, program directors must allow trainees appropriate time off from their training responsibilities in order to maintain current certification requirements.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

A. INCLUDED PROGRAMS:

The following programs are required to maintain current ALS and/or PALS:
### ALS Included Program

- Anesthesiology
- Anesthesiology - Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology
- Anesthesiology - Pain Medicine
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Diagnostic Radiology - Interventional Radiology - Independent
- Emergency Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Internal Medicine - Adult Congenital Heart Disease
- Internal Medicine - Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology
- Internal Medicine - Cardiovascular Disease
- Internal Medicine - Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology
- Internal Medicine - Interventional Cardiology
- Internal Medicine - Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine
- Internal Medicine - Pediatrics
- Interventional Radiology - Integrated
- Neurological Surgery
- Neurology
- Neurology - Neurologic Critical Care
- Psychiatry PGY 1 only
- Surgery
- Surgery - Research
- Surgery - Surgery Critical Care
- Surgery - Thoracic Surgery
- Surgery - Thoracic Surgery - Integrated
- Urology PGY 1 only

### PALS Included Programs

- Internal Medicine - Pediatrics
- Child Neurology
- Pediatrics
- Pediatric Research
- Triple Board (Ped/Psych/Child)

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B. As of March 2016, the VA Medical Center will follow the GME Policy 1.4: ALS/PALS Conditions for Employment, to determine trainees’ certification requirements.