

As you know HCA hospitals (not Healthtrust or EMC) have made the transition in all 250 of their hospitals and their 2,000 "other" sites to Red Cross programs instead of AHA. Stewart Healthcare has done the same in their 37 hospitals. All this started due to an issue between Healthstream (the hospitals' LMS) and the provider of the AHA online courses. When those 2 groups could not reach an agreement, the Red Cross was brought in to present their programs... logistics, price, and course length appealed to Healthstream and hence the hospitals.

As most of you have seen, the new Red Cross program is called Advanced Life Support instead of Advanced Cardiac Life Support; hence there are significant differences. This is the reason we asked everyone to go through the online program then take the final exam that the students will take. Yes, we've seen the inconsistencies, vague answers, things that contradict the book, and unique answer layout (pick all that apply). We have had several conversations with the Red Cross management team and they are reviewing it.

I have attached a letter of program explanation and expectations from the Red Cross Chief Medical Officer. They expect participants to have advanced base knowledge and utilize critical thinking vs merely learning algorithms; All of the info is presented in their text, or the live or online section (whichever they take to prepare for the course).

This program does cover Respiratory Emergencies, CO2 monitoring, waveforms, 12 and 15 lead EKG understanding, in depth Stroke info, as well as the standard Cardiac Event and Arrest scenarios.

Each of you were given access to download the textbook and instructor manual. The instructor manual contains an outline for the 400 slides and embedded videos you will be using for the 2 day full ALS class (CPR is less) and outline for each skill and testing station. The lectures are designed to be interactive and they do ask the students to respond to a number of questions.

Scenario testing is similar to what you have done in the past and is described in the instructor manual starting on page 163-165 then 251. The Red Cross is clear that there must be an active team leader and the other members must perform BLS airway, electrical therapy, and documentation by ACTUALLY DOING THE SKILLS - if you have 8 students, you are doing 8 different scenarios.

The 48 question written exam is a bit stricter and is discussed starting on page 24 & 165 of the instructor manual.

Our hospitals do not want the students using the textbook to take the exam.

This will be the policy; take Exam A. If 84% is not achieved (minus 7), they can review what was missed, and can see the correct answer. Then must take another version on the exam (can not take version A twice). If we let them use the text for version B- they are limited to a 40 minute time frame.

If a student is not successful in both the written and scenarios on the first attempt, they can not re-test either that day (i.e. a student who fails the written then tries the megacode only gets 1 chance or vice versa).

Please look through the instructor manual for all of the skills stations and scenarios. Attached are copies of the pages mentioned in this email.

Lead instructors- You should already be prepping for all of the lectures provided to you as a download and with instructor notes in the instructor's manual. WARNING- This is a completely different program.

Please contact us well before your first course if there is anything you don't understand.

Reminder- We can only schedule Red Cross instructors for HealthTrust programs, hence anyone who chooses to teach in those groups (ACLS or BLS) must be prepared by this week.

Thanks.

- Thought for the day: wet babies are the only ones who like change; even panhandlers want bills.

Shaun