

Subject: Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Requirements

1. POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

A. Education Requirements for BLS and ACLS. Staff must maintain certification as follows:

Discipline	Certification Requirements
Medical Staff Members (Physicians, Dentists and Podiatrists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All Medical Staff Members</i>—must be BLS-certified. This training can be waived for selected medical staff members if approved by the Chief of Staff. The Medical Staff Office will coordinate such waivers. • <i>New Physicians or Dentists Requesting Privileges to Order Moderate Sedation</i>—must present: (1) evidence of ACLS certification at the time of initial privileging; and (2) a certificate of completion of the Moderate Sedation National Training Program (this training is available at vaww.ees.aac.va.gov). This certificate must be presented <u>prior</u> to administering any moderate sedation and no later than 30 days after starting VA employment/contract status. Responsibility for ensuring completion of this course prior to administering moderate sedation and no later than 30 days rests with the physician’s PSL director or designee. • <i>Physicians or Dentists Requesting Renewal of Privileges to Order Moderate Sedation</i>— must either: (1) maintain ACLS certification; or (2) demonstrate evidence of 20 moderate sedation cases per year <u>and</u> complete the “Essentials of Resuscitation” offered by the Chief CRNA on behalf of the Moderate Sedation Committee. <i>Note:</i> This course must be completed before the provider applies to have their privileges/scope of practice renewed. • <i>Medical Staff Members Who Perform Deep Sedation</i>—must be ACLS-certified.
Residents and Fellows	Each resident and fellow will meet the BLS and/or ACLS certification requirements of their residency or fellowship program. Dental residents who monitor moderate sedation must be ACLS-certified.
Nurses (nursing assistants, LPNs, RNs, and advance practice nurses) and Physician Assistants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nurses and PAs must be BLS-certified. • The following nurses and PAs must also be ACLS-certified: (1) those who work in the Emergency Department; (2) CRNAs; (3) those who work in the ICUs, PACU, 3K Stepdown and all telemetry areas; (4) those who are required to have ICU competencies; (5) nursing supervisors; (6) those who serve on the Code Blue Team; and (7) those who monitor patients under moderate sedation (these nurses must also complete the EES course, “Moderate Sedation National Training Program”). In addition, APRNs requesting the ability to order moderate sedation in their scope of practice (or when renewing their scope of practice) must be ACLS-certified and present evidence of completion of the Moderate Sedation National Training Program (available at vaww.ees.aac.va.gov). Responsibility for ensuring these requirements are met rests with the APRN and the Nurse Executive Office.
Code and PMT Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members of the Code Blue Team must be both BLS and ACLS-certified. • Members of the <i>patient monitoring team</i> must be BLS-certified.
Other Staff	The following staff must be BLS-certified: Cardiac Cath Lab Technicians, Dental Hygienists or Assistants, Lab Technologists/Technicians, Occupational Therapists, Recreation Therapists, Physical Therapists, Radiology Technologists/Technicians and Respiratory Therapists/Technicians, Patient Escorts, Vehicle Operators who provide patient transport, and VA Police Officers and Security Assistants. <i>Note:</i> The Fitness Center is staffed by PTs, who, per the above, are BLS-certified.

2. **RESPONSIBILITIES:** Education will ensure all staff are certified as noted above. The Medical Staff Office and PSL directors will ensure medical staff meet these requirements at the time of initial appointment and renewal of privileges. The Chief CRNA will teach the “Essentials of Resuscitation” on behalf of the Moderate Sedation Committee.

3. **RESCISSIONS:** Policy PF-02G, BLS/ACLS Training Requirements, dated November 1, 2006.

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STEVEN P. KLEINGLASS, Medical Center Director