

# National ECC Training Memo

December 10, 2003

**From:** Jo Haag, RN, MSN  
Director, ECC Training Programs

**Subject:** Revised Heartsaver AED curriculum and materials

## **Purpose**

Provide guidance and tools for current AHA BLS and Heartsaver Instructors to successfully use the revised materials.

## **Background**

This memo provides direction and support to both BLS and Heartsaver Instructors for use of the revised Heartsaver AED provider course. When introduced in 1999, Heartsaver AED was the first American Heart Association ECC program to use the watch-then-practice format. The materials and course have been basically the same since introduction, except for minor science changes following release of the 2000 Guidelines. The revised materials and curriculum incorporate new science statements and the outcomes of course pilots and evaluation. Because of these changes, all BLS and Heartsaver instructors are required to participate in an update.

## **Instructor Updates**

Beginning in mid-January, 2004, the instructor update will be provided via a dedicated website that will include streaming video, file downloads, and instructor registration. This site will remain active until June 30, 2004. The link for the update website will be located on the ECC Instructor Page at <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3011785>. The availability of the update will be announced in early January 2004 with email notices and posting on the ECC Instructor site. For those who have an incompatible connection speed or no Internet access, the information will be available on CD-ROM, once the website presentation is launched. The decision to offer the update in January allows time for the purchase and receipt of the provider materials before the update. Instructors need to review the materials before participating in the update.

Although instructors are not prohibited from teaching with the new HS AED provider materials before completing the required update, they need to thoroughly review the provider manual, course video, and instructor manual before teaching the course. All BLS program instructors (BLS, HS, BLS IT, BLS Training Center Faculty, and BLS RFs), however, are required to complete the update before or as part of their next instructor renewal. A hierarchical process is not required for this update (ie, BLS RFs and BLS ITs do not have to complete the program first and then teach either BLS or HS Instructors).

Training Centers are responsible for ensuring that their instructors have completed the update. The website will provide details on how instructors will notify their TC of update course completion.

## General Information

The revised materials supersede all prior Heartsaver AED materials, which will be discontinued from sale on December 31, 2003. Only the new HS AED course materials can be used after April 30, 2004. The discontinued materials can be used through April 30, 2004 (ie, *Heartsaver AED* [70-2006], *Heartsaver AED* and *Heartsaver Pediatric CPR* [Combination Pack-age 70-2569], and *Heartsaver CPR* and *AED for Heartsaver CPR* [Combination Package 70-2568]).

## What's New and Different

### Major changes in the course structure and instructor materials:

- Terminology and reading level simplified to lower than 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- New illustrations
- Posters simplified
- Class time shortened to 3 hours for adult CPR and AED
- Child CPR and AED module option added
- Infant CPR option added
- Peer practice model added (introduced with other materials in 2001)
- Peer practice enhanced with illustrated practice sheets
- Detailed lesson plan provided for instructors
- Fewer scenarios
- Format revised for scenario cards
- "Child AED Pads" illustration added for selecting correct pads in adult scenarios
- Instructor CD with printable blank forms, sample schedules and letters, and FAQs
- Teaching Tips

### Major changes in student materials:

- Book has fewer pages, simplified terms with reading level lower than 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Student Refresher CD provided in each book with video clips and extra "nice to know" information
- Two reminder cards in each book — one for Adults, one for Child and Infants
- Tear-out Skills practice picture sheets — to be used during peer practice
- Pretest for each module
- Tear-out blank test answer sheet
- Tear-out skill evaluation sheets
- Tear-out course evaluation
- Tear-out phone picture page (to be used if no phone is available)

## Curriculum and Agenda

The Heartsaver AED Course includes all Heartsaver-level adult, child, and infant skills. The course is flexible enough to meet the needs of populations that have current cards from other AHA programs. Instructors may choose from several course options:

- Adult CPR with AED
- Adult CPR with AED, Child CPR with AED
- Adult CPR with AED, Child CPR with AED, Infant CPR

To meet the needs of individuals or sites that recently received adult CPR and adult AED training, there is an option for a pediatric-only agenda that includes skills for child CPR and child AED, with infant CPR as an option. To take the Child CPR with AED module alone,\* the student must present a current AHA course completion card indicating adult CPR and adult AED (acceptable

---

\*Child CPR with AED

\*Child CPR with AED and Infant CPR

cards are HS AED, HS FA with adult CPR/AED, HS CPR with adult CPR and AED, HCP). The modules on child CPR and AED use in a child assume previous training in adult CPR and AED use. These students are not required to demonstrate adult CPR or adult AED skills but are required to take the adult section of the written examination. In this instance, Instructors begin teaching with Module 2. If the Child or Child and Infant option is selected, the course completion card must have the adult CPR & AED skill marked out.

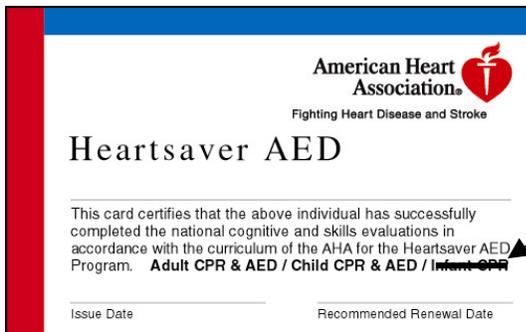
Course Option	Skills Taught	Written Exam
Adult Module	Adult skills	Adult section, 20 questions
Adult and Child Modules	Adult skills + Child skills	Adult + Child, 29 questions
Adult, Child, and Infant Modules	Adult skills + Child skills + Infant skills	Adult + Child + Infant, 33 questions
Child Module	Child skills	Adult + Child, 29 questions
Child and Infant Modules	Child + Infant skills	Adult + Child + Infant, 33 questions

The Course Option description for “Adult Module” includes adult CPR, FBAO, and adult AED skills.  
 The Course Option description for “Child Module” includes child CPR, FBAO, and child AED skills.  
 The Course Option description for “Infant Module” includes infant CPR and FBAO skills.

### Heartsaver AED Course Completion Cards

(products 70-2809 and 70-2810)

The Heartsaver AED Course completion cards offer options for Adult CPR & AED, Child CPR & AED, and Infant CPR. Instructors may issue the Heartsaver AED card for a single module or for all options listed on the card. All of the modules are listed. Mark out the modules that are not taught. For adult and child, CPR and AED must be taught together — adult CPR **and** AED; child CPR **and** AED. Refer to course options in above grid.



In this example, Infant CPR was not taught. Completely cross out with either a line or Xs the section that does not apply.

### Heartsaver AED Provider Written Examination

The HS AED Provider Written Examination consists of 33 questions, divided into 3 sections corresponding to the adult, child, and infant modules. The minimum passing score is 84%. Students who present current adult CPR and adult AED provider course cards may opt to take the child or the child and infant modules as described above. All students are required to take the adult section of the written examination. A score calculation table is provided as a supplement.