

***Pediatric, Emergency, Assessment, Recognition and Stabilization (PEARS)
Frequently Asked Questions
Version 11/29/2007***

Product Knowledge Overview

Q: What is the PEARS Course?

A: **Pediatric, Emergency, Assessment, Recognition and Stabilization (PEARS)** is a new intermediate course for credentialed healthcare providers who infrequently see critically ill children. The main focus of PEARS is prevention, and specifically the assessment, recognition and stabilization of pediatric victims at risk of severe cardiopulmonary distress. Course content covers pediatric assessment, recognition and management of respiratory distress and failure, recognition and management of shock, respiratory and circulatory management, resuscitation team concept and Chain of Survival.

The audience for this course is any healthcare provider who might encounter pediatric patients in their profession. It is **not** intended for those staff credentialed for advanced pediatric skills that **routinely** provide pediatric care. Course content covers pediatric assessment, recognition and management of respiratory distress and failure, recognition and management of shock, respiratory and circulatory management, resuscitation team concept and Chain of Survival.

The course is video-based with instructor-led discussion and simulation. This course does provide AHA PEARS certification.

Q: What is the purpose of the course?

A: The purpose of the course material is to enhance the pediatric assessment and recognition skills of the provider. The provider will be equipped to identify a pediatric victim at risk of severe cardiopulmonary distress and can intervene early to stabilize the child and contact next level of care early.

Q: What are the components of the PEARS course?

A: The course materials include:

- Instructor Package – Provider Manual with student CD and Pocket Reference Card, Instructor Manual with CD, poster set, DVD, stopwatch
- Provider Manual – includes CD and Pocket Reference Card and provides information on recognizing the signs of impending respiratory failure or shock and appropriate treatment
- Instructor Manual – 60 detailed lesson maps, scenario cue cards, instructor CD with precourse and course materials
- PEARS DVD – depicts cognitive and psychomotor skills for the course through video clips of acutely ill pediatric patients for group discussion and simulations

- PEARS Pocket Reference Card – highlights Assess-Categorize-Decide-Act (ACDA) worksheet along with vital signs table and summary of BLS ABCD maneuvers
- PEARS Posters – for use in classroom, showing BLS for HCP algorithm, ACDA worksheet and tables for categorizing and managing respiratory emergencies and shock

Q: Who is the target audience for the PEARS Course?

A: The audience for this course is any healthcare provider who might encounter pediatric patients in their profession. It is *not* intended for those staff credentialed for advanced pediatric skills that *routinely* provide pediatric care.

Q: Why was PEARS created?

A: We saw there was a gap in the number of healthcare providers who see pediatric patients but do not take the PALS course because it is too advanced. PEARS bridges the gap between providers who regularly provide pediatric intensive care and those who do not routinely provide pediatric care, but still need training in skills that help identify the signs and symptoms of a pediatric victim in cardiopulmonary distress.

Q: How does PEARS fit in with BLS and PALS?

A: PEARS is an intermediate course for pediatric basic life support skills training. HCP BLS is a pre-requisite to this course, but a BLS card is not required. PEARS provides a good foundation for core assessment and recognition knowledge that is important for providers interested in learning more advanced pediatric skills. PEARS is not a pre-requisite for taking PALS, but provides helpful skills for being successful in PALS.

Q: What are the course completion requirements?

A: Students must:

- Actively participate in, practice, and complete the skills stations and learning stations
- Pass skills tests in: 1) child 1-rescuer CPR/AED 2) infant 1-rescuer, and 3) 2-rescuer CPR
- Pass a video-based written test with a minimum score of 84%

Q: How does the video-based written test work?

A: Instructors show the video for case 1, give students time to write their answers to each related question, then repeat the same process for each of the remaining cases. Instructors then review test answers with the group and have each student grade his own test.

Q: What is the course length?

A: The course takes approximately 7 hours to complete.

Q: Does PEARS offer continuing education credits?

A: AHA does not offer CE for this course at this time.

Instructor Information

Q: Who can teach PEARS?

A: PALS instructors are authorized to teach the course.

Q: Who authorizes the Instructors to teach the course?

A: AHA PALS centers authorize instructors to teach the PEARS course.

Q: Will there be any training provided for the instructors?

A: No. An Instructor update for PALS Instructors is not necessary. PALS Course Directors and Instructors should review the course materials prior to teaching the first time.

Q: Do students receive a certificate or card?

A: Students receive PEARS certification upon completion.

Q: Does an Instructor need to be affiliated with an AHA Training Center?

A: Yes, an Instructor needs to be affiliated with an AHA PALS Training Center.

Q: When will the test be sent to the Training Centers?

A: After November 29, the test will be available to current PALS Training Centers.

Kit Contents/Material

Q: What materials are included in the PEARS course?

A: Course materials include:

- PEARS Instructor Package (80-1478)
 - PEARS Provider Manual with student
 - CD and Pocket Reference Card
 - PEARS Instructor Manual with CD
 - PEARS Poster Set (6)
 - PEARS DVD
 - AHA Stopwatch
- PEARS Provider Manual (80-1417)
 - Approximately 120-page manual PEARS CD
 - Provides information on recognizing the signs of impending respiratory failure or shock and appropriate treatment
 - PEARS CD
 - PEARS Pocket Reference Card
- PEARS Instructor Manual (80-1418)
 - Approximately 60 detailed lesson maps
 - Scenario cue cards
 - Instructor CD with precourse and course materials
 - Approximately 60 pages
- PEARS DVD (80-1419)
 - Depicts cognitive and psychomotor skills for course
 - Video clips of acutely ill pediatric patients for group discussion and simulations
 - Approximately 70 minutes
 - Closed-captioned

- PEARS Pocket Reference Card (80-1476)
 - Vital Signs table
 - Assess-Categorize-Decide-Act (ACDA) worksheet
 - Summary of BLS ABCD maneuvers
 - Management of Respiratory Emergencies
 - Management of Shock flowchart
- PEARS Posters (80-1477)
 - Large-size posters for use in classroom
 - BLS for Healthcare Provider Algorithm
 - Assess-Categorize-Decide-Act (ACDA) Worksheet
 - Tables for categorizing and managing respiratory emergencies and shock
- PEARS Course Completion Card (80-1215)
 - 3 cards per sheet for set of 24
 - Recognizable AHA look with security features included

Q: Is the course available in any language other than English?

A: At this time, there are no plans to translate the PEARS course into other languages.

Pricing for/Purchasing of PEARS

Q: How can Instructors purchase PEARS materials?

A: PEARS materials can be purchased through ECC's three distributors: Channing-Bete, WorldPoint, and Laerdal Medical.

Q: How much do the PEARS materials cost?

A: Beginning November 29, Instructors can contact the AHA distributors for specific pricing information.