

November 23, 2005

Dear Training Network,

This is an exciting time for ECC Programs, as we prepare for the release of the *2005 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care* (2005 AHA Guidelines for CPR and ECC) and the rollout of new products throughout 2006. As we move toward Guidelines release, we want to provide you the critical information you need to continue to provide training and prepare for the release of new Guidelines.

2005 AHA Guidelines

Guidelines Publication Date Change

The electronic version of the *2005 American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR and ECC* will now be released on Monday, November 28, via www.americanheart.org/eccguidelines.

The early release of the Guidelines will coincide with the publication of the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation's (ILCOR) Consensus on Science and Treatment Recommendations (CoSTR).

As many of you know, the AHA ECC Guidelines originally were scheduled for publication on December 13. This date would have followed two weeks after the publication of the consensus document. In order to avoid confusion about the differences between the consensus document and Guidelines, the decision was made to "fast track" publishing the electronic version of the Guidelines. The CoSTR document will be published electronically at 9:00 a.m. EST on November 28, and the ECC Guidelines will be published electronically approximately 30 minutes after CoSTR.

Although the electronic version of the ECC Guidelines will be available beginning November 28, the print version still will be published in *Circulation* on December 13.

Release of first American Heart Association/American Red Cross *Guidelines for First Aid*

In 2000, for the first time, AHA included *Guidelines for First Aid* as part of the evidence-based evaluation process. For the 2005 release, first aid guidelines again were reviewed, but this time, the first aid scientific review, recommendations and guidelines development were jointly sponsored and co-led by the ARC and AHA. The two organizations collaborated to found the First Aid Science Advisory Board, with the purpose of reviewing and evaluating the science and coming to a consensus. This Board was made up of representatives from organizations that are considered key stakeholders in first aid.

From the consensus on first aid science, the AHA and the ARC have worked to create joint *Guidelines for First Aid*, which will be released in the same issue of *Circulation* as the *2005 AHA Guidelines for CPR and ECC*.

AHA ECC is very excited about this partnership with the ARC and the release of our first joint *Guidelines for First Aid*. With the AHA's leadership in science and ARC's leadership in first aid education, it is a natural collaboration to ensure first aid across the nation, and potentially the world, is based on the same scientific foundation.

Guidelines Release Schedule of Events

Below is a schedule of events for the release of 2005 AHA Guidelines that we hope will help you plan your communications to your Instructors and partners.

Please note, you will be able to access the 2005 AHA Guidelines, the winter issue of *Currents*, and the Guidelines webcasts via www.americanheart.org/eccguidelines. This Web site will be posted at 9:30 a.m. EST, November 28, 2005

November 28, 2005

9:30 a.m. EST *Circulation* publishes 2005 AHA Guidelines for CPR and ECC electronically

Science media are briefed on changes to Guidelines

10:00 a.m. EST Guidelines Webcasts* post

November 29, 2005

Winter issue of *Currents* is posted online (features summary of key changes)

Print version of CoSTR published in *Circulation* and *Resuscitation*

December 13, 2005

Print version of ECC Guidelines published in *Circulation* and *Resuscitation*

**For the release of the 2005 Guidelines, the AHA has produced three tailored webcast programs that address instructor and practitioners who teach and work in the hospital, EMS, and corporate/community settings. These webcasts will be available via www.americanheart.org/eccguidelines. The webcasts are designed to give a very high-level overview of important changes. They do not, however, take the place of official training updates. See below for more information on training updates.*

Interim Guidance for Continuing Training

We want to emphasize that between the release of 2005 AHA Guidelines and the release of new products, Training Centers should continue to offer courses using the current materials. It is critical that Training Centers continue to provide courses to everyone that needs training in the healthcare, corporate, and public environments.

In mid-January, National Faculty will be meeting in Dallas to receive updates to the science changes, as well as “bridging” materials and information that will be needed to integrate new Guidelines into the existing course materials until the new, updated materials are available. This information will be distributed to the training network following this January meeting.

Until you receive these official training updates, please continue to teach using the current course materials.

2006 Product Rollout

AHA training materials updated to reflect new Guidelines will launch throughout 2006.

Release Dates Previously Announced:

- December 19, 2006 – Guidelines Reprint
- January 16, 2006 – Handbook for Healthcare Providers

Release Dates by Calendar Quarter:

- First quarter 2006 (by March 31)– BLS for Healthcare Provider Materials
- Second quarter 2006 (by June 30) – Heartsaver and Family & Friends Materials
- Third quarter 2006 (by September 30) – ACLS Materials
- Fourth quarter 2006 (by December 31) – PALS Materials

All products within the product lines will be released at the same time (ie, Instructor and Student materials together, as well as self-directed options, if applicable).

Core Instructor Course

The AHA is pleased to announce the upcoming release of the AHA ECC Core Instructor Course. The goal of this course is to provide new instructors with the best possible foundation in teaching skills, and to provide current instructors with a source of continuing education.

The course has five modules covering topics such as communicating, planning and preparation, coaching, presenting material, promoting retention, evaluation and providing remediation. Each module is made up of multiple lessons. Instructor candidates may complete the course in a totally self-directed format, in a traditional instructor-led classroom setting or through a combination of these delivery options.

All new instructors trained after the release of this program will be required to complete the Core Instructor Course as Step 1 of their training. Step 2 will be completing the discipline specific training, and Step 3 will be the course monitoring. The Core Instructor Course will only need to be completed once if a person wants to become an instructor in more than one discipline. With the course, there will be an instructor manual including the full course on CD-ROM. This manual will compliment and support the new discipline-specific instructor materials. The manual should be purchased by all instructors.

Additional, detailed information about this new program and our current instructors will be shared in a separate communication.

We will continue to work to keep you informed about any changes or updates to the above information and timelines. In the meantime, please feel free to contact your ECC Service Center at 1-888-CPR-LINE with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jo Haag, MSN, RN
Director of Training
American Heart Association ECC Programs