

ECG & Pharmacology Course & Materials
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Updated October 12, 2011

Course Information

Q: What is the ECG & Pharmacology Course?

A: ECG recognition skills and drug treatment knowledge have been identified as key gaps in knowledge for healthcare providers. ECG & Pharmacology is a classroom-based course that the AHA has developed to bridge these gaps. The course is designed as a pre-course option for ACLS students who were identified through the ACLS Precourse Self-Assessment as needing to improve ECG recognition skills and/or drug treatment knowledge, or for ACLS students who in general need to refresh their skills and knowledge. This course is also intended for any healthcare provider needing to learn ECG recognition skills and/or pharmacology.

Q: What is the course format?

A: The adult ECG & Pharmacology Course is presented in a modular format and includes one module for ECG and one for Pharmacology. These modules can be taught together or separately. The learning model for this course uses an Instructor CD and Student Workbook. This course does not provide certification, but instead, is designed solely to enhance students' ECG recognition and drug treatment knowledge.

Q: Who is the target audience for the ECG & Pharmacology Course?

A: The course is intended for anyone who needs basic knowledge in ECG recognition or who needs to understand the drugs used in a periarrest or cardiac arrest.

Q: Why was ECG & Pharmacology created?

A: ECG recognition skills and drug treatment knowledge have been identified as key gaps in knowledge for ACLS students. AHA recognized that without strong competency in either ECG recognition or drug treatment knowledge related to the ACLS algorithms, achievement of ACLS certification for the healthcare provider is more difficult.

As a result, this course was created to address those knowledge gaps and serve as a precourse option for ACLS students who have been identified through the ACLS Precourse Self-assessment as needing to improve ECG recognition skills and drug treatment, or for ACLS students who in general need to refresh their skills and knowledge. It was also created for anyone wanting to gain knowledge in ECG recognition and pharmacology.

Q: What are the course objectives?

A: *Objectives for the ECG module:*

1. Explain heart anatomy and basic electrophysiology
2. Explain normal ECG measurements
3. Recognize and understand basic arrhythmias

Objectives for the Pharmacology module:

1. Know basic ACLS drugs and usage
2. Understand drugs, doses and routes of administration during cardiovascular emergencies
3. Learn to integrate basic drug pharmacology into ACLS algorithms

Q: What are the course completion requirements?

A: Students must participate in each module taught to be able to receive a completion certificate.

Q: Do students receive a certificate or card?

A: Students receive a completion certificate after completing the ECG module, Pharmacology module or both combined.

Q: How do students who complete the ECG & Pharmacology Course receive their completion certificate?

A: The course Instructor provides the student with their course completion certificate. Completion certificates are located on the ECG & Pharmacology Instructor CD.

Q: Approximately how long does it take to complete the ECG & Pharmacology Course?

Q: Does the ECG & Pharmacology course offer continuing education credits?

A: No, continuing education credits are not offered for this course at this time.

Teaching ECG & Pharmacology

Q: Who can teach the ECG & Pharmacology Course?

A: The ECG & Pharmacology Course may be taught by experienced Instructors with extensive knowledge and educational experience in teaching basic arrhythmias. There is no requirement that these Instructors be affiliated with an AHA Training Center.

Q: Can the ECG & Pharmacology Course be added or integrated into an ACLS Course?

A: No, the ECG & Pharmacology Course is intended to be a pre-course option for ACLS

Course Materials

Q: What materials are available for the ECG & Pharmacology Course?

A: Course materials include an Instructor CD and a student workbook. The ECG & Pharmacology Instructor CD (product #80-1448) includes Flash slide presentations for the two modules, Instructor notes, Lesson Maps and administrative documents, such as completion certificates.

The *ECG & Pharmacology Student Workbook* (product #80-1467) includes 48 pages of colorful illustrations and is intended to be used before, during and after the course, and has a detailed Appendix that reviews six algorithms. These algorithms should be used to integrate the students' ECG and drug knowledge.

Purchasing Materials/Finding Classes:

Q: Where/how can I purchase ECG & Pharmacology Course materials?

A: AHA ECC training products can be purchased from any of ECC's three trusted product [Distributors](#) (Channing Bete, Laerdal, and World Point).

Q: How do I find an ECG & Pharmacology Course in my area?

A: To find a class near you, please use the ECC Class Connector Tool at www.heart.org/eccclassconnector.

Technical Issues

Q: Who should I contact if I have problems with ECG & Pharmacology Course materials?

A: For problems with these products, customers should contact the AHA ECC Distributor from whom they purchased the products. (Channing Bete, Laerdal, WorldPoint).

Q: Who can Instructors call if they are having technical problems with the Instructor CD?

A: If Instructors are having problems loading or using the CD, they first should make sure their computer meets all minimum system requirements, as listed on the inside cover of the CD. If their computer meets the requirements, and they are still having trouble, they should log onto www.heart.org/cprproductsupport or call 877-AHA-4CPR for additional assistance. Assistance is limited to the CD and is not available for problems related to the customer's computer configuration.

Translations:

Q: Are the ECG & Pharmacology Course materials available in any language other than English?

A: Not at this time.