

**LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK  
Graduate Medical Education**

**GME Policy - Life Support Provider Status**

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**I. Policy**

This policy sets the expectation for graduate trainees with regard to life support course certification at the start of graduate training and maintenance of certification during training.

**II. Scope**

Graduate trainees (medical and dental residents and fellows) of Lehigh Valley Health Network.

**III. Definitions**

Graduate trainee – Any postgraduate M.D., D.O., D.D.S. or D.M.D physician/dentist in training, in an ACGME/AOA/ADA approved training program.

Life Support Certification – Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP), Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)

**IV. Procedure**

A. As outlined in the chart below, all graduate trainees with direct patient care responsibilities will obtain the appropriate life support provider status prior to beginning patient care responsibilities and maintain certification throughout their training.

B. The Department of Education will confirm that graduate trainees have obtained the appropriate provider status prior to authorizing them to begin patient care responsibilities.

C. The Department of Education will budget for initial or renewal BLS, ACLS, and/or PALS course completion/certification required of new trainees within the institution. Each sponsoring department/program will budget for any certification for continuing trainees.

D. Individual departments and / or residencies may require additional life support courses not mentioned above (for example, neonatal resuscitation for pediatrics). In this case, each department will budget for payment of these additional courses, at rates set by LVHN's Emergency Medicine Institute (EMI).

E. Graduate trainees wishing to complete life support courses outside of Lehigh Valley Health Network shall be responsible for any and all costs of these courses, including travel.

F. Program Coordinators will notify residents at 180, 90 and 30 days before their Life Support provider recommended renewal date so that the resident may schedule a renewal course.

G. During training, all graduate trainees are required to maintain current life support certifications. Continuing residents who do not fulfill life support requirements have a 30 day grace period and may then be placed on suspension from their clinical training.

H. The online American Heart Association HeartCode® ACLS is the only online acceptable means to complete ACLS didactic components. If a trainee chooses the AHA HeartCode® option, they must still complete an in-person skill component conducted by an AHA Instructor. In-person skill assessment can be completed through LVHN's EMI. To schedule an assessment, call (484) 884-0011 and pay the applicable fee.

I. Life support requirements for each graduate training program will follow the life support requirements as outlined in the Life Support Requirements by Department approved by Medical Executive Committee (see Appendix 1 and Reference 2). Additionally, specific graduate training programs may require life support certifications above those required of medical staff (ie. to meet specialty-specific accreditation requirements or if as part of their training or trainees rotate to areas that require additional certification). If a trainee will be completing a rotation outside of LVHN, additional certifications or requirements may apply.

**\*COVID-19 PANDEMIC EXCEPTIONS:**

**1. For incoming residents and fellows beginning at LVH in the summer of 2020, a 30 day grace period for obtaining the appropriate life support provider status will be extended from the trainee's start date.**

**2. Current trainees possessing AHA Provider Cards that may expire in the summer of 2020, will be considered to be in compliance for up to 60 days beyond the card renewal date (ie. expiration dates will be extended for up to 60 days).**

**These exceptions are necessitated due to Covid-19 pandemic issues related to life support provider courses, and scheduling challenges related to onboarding new trainees, and are aligned with AHA "Interim Guidance on Extensions for AHA Instructor & Provider Cards during COVID-19 Outbreak" issued March 19, 2020.**

**Approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee**

Appendix 1

Program	Basic Life Support (BLS)	Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)	Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)	Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP)	ATLS
	Prior to Arrival			Scheduled by Department	
Cardiology	X	X			
Colon Rectal Surgery	X	X			
Dermatology	X				
Emergency Medicine	X	X	X		X
Endocrinology	X	X			
Family Medicine	X	X	X	X	
Gastroenterology	X	X			
General Practice Dentistry	X	X			
General Surgery	X	X			X
Hematology Oncology	X	X			
Hospice Palliative Medicine	X	X			
Internal Medicine	X	X			
Medical Toxicology			X		X
Nephrology	X	X			
Neurology	X	X			
OBGYN	X	X		X	
Pediatrics			X	X	
Plastic Surgery	X	X			X
Psychiatry (PGY 1 only)	X	X			
Pulmonary Critical Care	X	X			
Rheumatology	X	X			
Sports Medicine	X				
Surgical Critical Care	X	X			X
Transitional Year	X	X			

\* Those certifications highlighted in yellow are an LVHN Medical Executive Committee requirement.

\*\*All other certifications marked with an X are program-specific requirements. See Reference 1 for detailed notes.

**Reference 1: Notes on Program-Specific Requirements**

BLS and ACLS are program-specific requirements for the following programs:

- Cardiology
- Colon Rectal Surgery
- Dental Medicine
- Endocrinology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- General Surgery
- Hematology/Oncology
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Nephrology
- Plastic Surgery
- Rheumatology
- Surgical Critical Care
- Transitional Year

*\*Basic Standards for Residency Training in Emergency Medicine BOT Rev. 7/2011 Page 13*

*\*Basic Standards for Residency Training in Osteopathic Family Practice and Manipulative Treatment BOT 7/2010, Effective 7/2011 Page 8*

BLS and ACLS are required for all osteopathic programs (AOA basic documents effective 7/1/16):

- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine

- Internal Medicine

*\*AOA Basic Documents for Postdoctoral Training, Effective 7/1/2016 OGME Calendar Page 99*

BLS is a program-specific requirement for the following programs:

- Dermatology
- Sports Medicine

ACLS is a program-specific requirement for the following programs:

- OB/GYN

PALS is a program-specific requirement for:

- Pediatrics

In addition, for Emergency Medicine Medical command certification requires ACLS certification.

Surgery: Residents who are first responders for trauma require ATLS. This includes all general surgery, surgical critical care fellow, plastic surgery residents (during PGY1-3 only)

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