



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND  
2050 WORTH ROAD  
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

16 January 2009

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-CL-Q

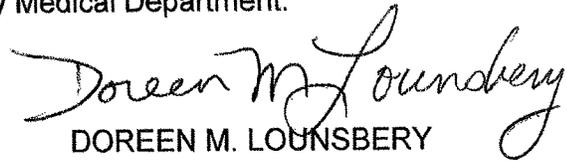
MEMORANDUM FOR Army Medical Treatment Facilities, Army Reserve Centralized Credentialing Affairs, and Chief Surgeon, Army National Guard

SUBJECT: Clarification of Basic Life Support (BLS) Requirements

1. Army Regulation 40-68, Clinical Quality Management, 26 February 2004, stipulates that all health care personnel assigned, or subject to reassignment to duties involving the provision of patient care will possess and maintain Basic Life Support (BLS) certification. This includes all licensed providers who must provide proof of current BLS status for credentialing purposes in the Army.
2. The Department of Defense Health Council established the Military Training Network (MTN) in 1982. The mission of the Military Training Network (MTN) is to develop and implement policy guidance and ensure compliance with curriculum and administrative standards for resuscitative and trauma medicine training programs for uniformed service members and Department of Defense affiliates worldwide. The MTN has determined that the standardized training in BLS provided by the American Heart Association (AHA) CPR/AED Professional Rescuer Course is the appropriate standard of training for all BLS certification. A statement of understanding between the AHA/ARC recognizing the other's Provider course CPR training programs as equivalent in content was issued June 30, 2007 and expires on June 30, 2011.
3. Many private organizations and online training sites that are not officially affiliated with the AHA provide Basic Life Support (BLS) or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training. This includes, but is not limited to, the civilian organizations named the American Safety and Health Institute, and the National Safety Council. **The Military Training Network has determined that training provided by these organizations does not meet the criteria for AHA certification in BLS, and is not equivalent to AHA certification in BLS.**
4. Online training sites or videos that are officially affiliated with the AHA may be used for the didactic portion of training in BLS, but do not fulfill the skills training requirement to obtain full certification in BLS. Personnel who utilize these options must obtain skills assessment from an AHA accredited program before certification is granted.

MCHO-CL-Q  
SUBJECT: Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification

5. The American Heart Association, and its affiliates (including the Military Training Network), issue BLS certification cards that specifically state the certification is through AHA. These are the only cards that are acceptable proof of certification in BLS for health care providers and staff in the Army Medical Department.



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