POLICY:  BLS & ACLS or PALS Certification Policy

PURPOSE:  To establish a protocol for housestaff obtaining and maintaining certification in Basic Life Support & Advanced Cardiac Life Support (BLS & ACLS) and/or Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) while in residency and fellowship training at UCSF Fresno.

POLICY:  All Housestaff are required to obtain and maintain both BLS & ACLS (and/or PALS) certification at all times during their residency training and to provide the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Office with documentation evidence of current certification prior to employment.  It is the professional responsibility of all housestaff to maintain this certification.

PROCEDURE:

Certification Requirements:  UCSF Fresno requires all incoming housestaff to comply with hospital by-laws and be certified in BLS and ACLS as a pre-employment requirement.  Some programs may require additional life support certification(s) based on specialty specific guidelines.

Recertification Requirements and Eligibility:  All housestaff are required by UCSF Fresno to maintain current ACLS or PALS & BLS certification during residency/fellowship training.  The programs must monitor/track certification status as required for all housestaff and upload current certifications into E-Value.  Programs are required to notify housestaff of any upcoming expiration for BLS & ACLS or PALS certification at least 3 months in advance of the expiration.  In order to be eligible for no cost recertification, the resident must be enrolled in a UCSF Fresno training program with an expectation of continued education within a UCSF Fresno program.  No-cost recertification is not provided in the last 30 days of the training program.

ACLS, BLS, and PALS recertification training courses are offered at Community Medical Centers Education & Development, located at 1550 E. Shaw Ave, Suite 120 (Near Old Spaghetti Factory).  It is recommended that housestaff schedule training 60 days prior to the expiration date of their current certification.  When it is time for recertification, the Recertification form must be filled out and submitted to CRMCClinicalLearningEnvironment@communitymedical.org.  The form can be found within this document.

Once the form is completed and submitted by the program, the residents will receive further instructions via email.

Programs should allow housestaff to schedule time away from their training responsibilities if needed to maintain current certification requirements.

(Original signed Policy is available in the UCSF Fresno Graduate Medical Education Office)

Michael Peterson, MD, Associate Dean, Chair GMEC
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