


Title: Graduate Medical Education - BLS, ACLS, PALS Certifications - Policy

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I. Policy Statement

- a. The purpose of this policy is to set forth the specific life support certifications required to be maintained by residents who have direct patient contact.
- b. This policy is important because residents who have direct patient contact must be able to perform life support measures when needed. BLS certification is a hospital requirement.

II. Definitions

- a. **Resident** – Resident means an intern, resident, or fellow who is formally accepted, enrolled, and participating in an approved MUHC medical training program. (based on CMS Guidelines for Teaching Physicians, Interns, and Residents and ACGME Glossary of Terms)

III. Process/Content

- a. All residents who have direct contact with patients must maintain active certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS), through training sessions which have been endorsed by the American Red Cross. Residents required to maintain Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) certification(s) are listed below and must also be obtained through training sessions endorsed by the Red Cross.
- b. Exceptions to certifications include:
 - i. Pathology residents will not be mandated to take BLS or ALS.
 - ii. Orthopaedic Surgery and General Surgery Residents will be required to take BLS and ALS as new residents. However, after the PGY-1 year, surgery residents will be required to maintain BLS certification, but will not be required to maintain certification in ALS. Surgery residents beyond PGY-1 will be required to maintain certification in Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) for the duration of their residency. Residents in any other surgery residency will be required to maintain the BLS certification and will have the option of maintaining ATLS instead of ALS.
 - iii. Surgical Critical Care fellows are required to maintain BLS, ALS, PALS, and ATLS certifications.

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- iv. Pediatrics residents will be required to maintain BLS, PALS, and NRP certifications for the duration of training but will not be required to maintain ALS.
- v. Family Medicine residents must maintain PALS and NRP certifications in addition to BLS and ALS certifications.
- vi. Med/Peds residents must maintain PALS and NRP certifications in addition to BLS and ALS certifications.
- vii. Emergency Medicine residents are required to be certified in BLS, ALS, PALS, NRP, and ATLS. NRP is only required for the first two years of residency

IV. Attachments

- a. GME Program Certifications

V. References, Regulatory References, Related Documents, or Links

- a. Not Applicable