

Graduate Medical Education Policy	Life Support Training
Facility/Sponsor	CMC/GMEC
Policy Origin Date	November 1996
Revision Date	May 2025

PURPOSE

The Sponsoring Institution has a responsibility to ensure residents begin their clinical education with the appropriate life support training that is necessary for them to successfully assume certain clinical responsibilities. Certain certifications must be maintained throughout a resident's training based on specialty-specific clinical responsibilities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME), and Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited graduate medical education programs sponsored by Carilion Medical Center (CMC).

DEFINITIONS

Resident refers to all interns, residents, and fellows participating in CMC post-graduate training programs.

Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI) Education: Carilion Clinic's process to maintain American Heart Association certifications. RQI is the performance improvement program from AHA that delivers quarterly training to support mastery of high-quality CPR skills.

PROCEDURE

1. Program Directors will designate the minimum requirement for life support training for residents and fellows in their respective programs. Each program must adhere to national and Carilion Medical Center specialty guidelines for further training and maintenance of certifications. Program-specific guidelines will determine which certifications are required and will be communicated to incoming trainees.
2. Carilion Medical Center requires life support certifications through the American Heart Association (AHA) and offers Basic Life Support Training (BLS), Advanced Life Support (ALS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) renewals via the Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI) process.
3. Basic Life Support (BLS): All residents whose program requires life support training must present a valid BLS certification to begin clinical responsibilities. In most cases, this certification must be obtained prior to the resident's start date with Carilion. CMC ascribes to guidelines established by the American Heart Association (AHA). Residents must complete an AHA sponsored BLS course for their certification to be accepted. Residents who require this training must maintain this certification throughout their residency.
4. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS): Residents who are required to participate in the Code Blue Response Team during their assigned duties, or as otherwise required by the program, must successfully complete the AHA ACLS Provider course prior to assuming clinical responsibilities. Residents participating in Code Blue Response Team must maintain this certification so long as they are assigned this responsibility.

5. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS): Residents in programs who require ATLS must complete the ATLS Student Course in the beginning of their first educational year and maintain this certification throughout their residency training, or as otherwise required by the program.
6. Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS): Pediatric, Family Medicine, and Emergency Medicine residents who are required to participate in the Pediatric Code Blue Response Team during their assigned duties must successfully complete the PALS Provider Course prior to assuming clinical responsibilities and maintain this certification as long as they are assigned this responsibility.
7. Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP): Residents entering Family Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Pediatrics must successfully complete the NRP course prior to beginning clinical duties and maintain this certification throughout their residency training.

Designated Institutional Official	Reviewing Committee	Date Approved
Daniel Harrington, MD	GMEC	January 1, 2012
Donald Kees, MD	GMEC	August 18, 2015
Donald Kees, MD	GMEC	October 16, 2018
Arthur Ollendorff, MD	GMEC	November 16, 2021
Arthur Ollendorff, MD	GMEC	May 20, 2025