

April 5, 2005

Dear partners in the American Heart Association Training Network:

This is an exciting and productive time for the American Heart Association's Emergency Cardiovascular Care Programs. As you know, 2005 marks the review of current and new resuscitation science and the reevaluation and update of *Guidelines 2000 for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care*. The outcome of this process impacts you as a member of the AHA Training Network, as well as the customers you train. This letter is the first of several communications you will receive communicating to you the critical information you need to continue to provide training and prepare for the release of new Guidelines.

The process of updating Guidelines for 2005 began almost as soon as the 2000 Guidelines were released. Since 2001, the world's top experts in resuscitation and cardiovascular science have been meeting to review current and new science, and to come to an international consensus on science and treatment recommendations for 2005. Based on this international consensus and input from leaders in many professional healthcare organizations, AHA ECC will develop the *2005 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care*. The Guidelines will be published in December 2005, and will be used as the foundation for creating updated training materials, which will be released throughout 2006.

Throughout the process of releasing Guidelines and new products, the need for training will continue, and it is critical that Training Centers continue to provide courses to everyone that needs training in the healthcare, corporate, and public environments. For example, many corporations continue to implement AED programs and need training to support implementation. They are adopting these programs to save lives and we need to provide training to them without delay. Also, regardless of discipline, each year, the AHA receives more than 300,000 phone calls requesting help in finding an AHA BLS (including Heartsaver®), ACLS, or PALS course. Despite the Guidelines update process, providers will continue to need and seek training, and delivering training to them cannot wait. Current course materials will be available during the update process and should be used until new materials are released.

As you begin to plan and budget your Training Center's needs for 2006 and beyond, please consider the following timeline:

December 2005

- ♥ The American Heart Association will publish the *2005 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care*.

This document first will be published in the journal *Circulation*, then will be available as a reprint through the AHA distributors.

- ♥ The winter issue of *Currents* will feature a summary of key changes to the ECC Guidelines. This issue of *Currents*, as well as all other issues, are/will be available free of charge on the AHA Web site at www.americanheart.org/cpr.

January 2006

- ♥ Interim guidance on how to integrate changes in resuscitation science into specific, current ECC course materials will be provided to Instructors and Training Centers. This will ensure that current training materials can be utilized prior to the release of new training materials in 2006, enabling you to continue to meet the needs of your customers.
- ♥ The AHA *Handbook of Emergency Care for Healthcare Providers* will be released.

January – June 2006

- ♥ All Basic Life Support (BLS) course materials, including *Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers*, all Heartsaver[®] (including Heartsaver[®] First Aid), and Family & Friends community materials will be released. This will include instructor and student materials, exams, and all other auxiliary materials.

July – September 2006

- ♥ All Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) course materials will be released. This will include instructor and student materials, exams, and all other auxiliary materials.

October – December 2006

- ♥ All Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) course materials will be released. This will include instructor and student materials, exams, and all other auxiliary materials.

As the release of the 2005 Guidelines and new materials draws near, we will work diligently to keep you informed about any changes or updates to the above timeline. In the meantime, please feel free to contact your ECC Service Center with any questions.

We appreciate your commitment to providing lifesaving ECC training. Stay tuned!

Sincerely,



Jo Haag

Director of Training

American Heart Association ECC Programs