

Position Statement

AVAILABILITY OF ACLS MEDICAL DIRECTORS DURING ACLS COURSES

BACKGROUND

- An ACLS Medical Director should be available in person for the evaluation portion of the ACLS course and when possible throughout the full length of any ACLS course.
- In many instances, for reasons including the proximity of the nearest ACLS Medical Director to the training facility, and the limited number of ACLS Medical Directors in some parts of Canada, it is difficult to arrange for an ACLS Medical Director to be on-site.
- Since the implementation of the 2005 Emergency Cardiac Care Guidelines and ACLS course curriculum, it has been demonstrated that ACLS Medical Directors can fulfill their role in ACLS courses whether they are present in person or available for consultation by telephone.
- The need for ACLS Medical Directors to be on-site for all or parts of an ACLS course has been discussed, debated and reviewed at length among HSFC Resuscitation Program Coordinators, Policy Advisory Committee on Resuscitation (PACR) members, various provincial ACLS committees and an HSFC ACLS Task Force. The conclusion reached through these discussions is that which is described in the recommendations below.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada recommends that a physician instructor or experienced instructor deliver the Acute Coronary Syndromes/Stroke portions of the ACLS program.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada recommends that ACLS Medical Directors must be, at minimum, immediately available by telephone throughout the duration of any ACLS course.

**This Position Statement is current as of:
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