
CPR/AED for the Healthcare Provider Certificate

Q Why is this change occurring now?

A Preparedness and Health and Safety Services periodically conducts a review of all policies and procedures. After reviewing all CPR certification lengths, it was determined that at this time the change to a 2-year CPR certificate length would be appropriate for only healthcare providers.

Q Who is the intended audience for the healthcare provider certificate?

A This certificate is intended for healthcare providers whose primary job responsibilities are in health care. Some examples include: physicians, nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, physician's assistants, residents or fellows, or medical or nursing students in training, aides, medical or nursing assistants, and other allied health personnel.

Q What is the reason for the change?

A Healthcare providers are in a position to use CPR/AED skills more often because of job responsibilities. Additionally their primary job responsibility is healthcare. As a result, formal retraining can be changed to a biennial occurrence. The Red Cross continues to encourage frequent skills practice such as in-service training or review sessions to maintain CPR/AED skills and knowledge.

Q What programs does this change affect?

A This change does not affect any current program. The curriculum and delivery is the same, the 2-year certificate is issued to healthcare professionals. The formal announcement is scheduled for release in late summer.

Q Does this change affect lifeguards?

A No. A lifeguard's primary job responsibility is prevention of emergencies which is different from healthcare providers whose primary job responsibility is patient care therefore lifeguards need to be certified annually.

Q Will this change affect certificates issued prior to the formal announcement?

A No. Only healthcare providers who take a course offered after the formal announcement will have the opportunity to receive a certificate valid for two years. If a recently trained healthcare provider wishes to obtain a 2-year certificate, they must complete a course (full, review or challenge) after the formal release of the policy.

Q What tools will be available to help communicate this change?

A Several communication, sales and marketing tools will be released with the formal announcement. These tools include template letters to instructors and decision makers, as well as customer talking points. Additionally, chapters will be provided tools that will target the professional market about the change in the certification length in an effort to recruit new customers and increase market share.