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## RCSA PROVIDER COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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### Overview:

The Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa (RCSA) offers courses to cater for a wide spectrum of lay as well as professional rescuers in a variety of settings. This policy aims to provide the minimum entry criteria applicable to the provider programmes to ensure that TSs are accepting the appropriate candidates onto courses.

### Aims:

- To communicate the entry requirements for RCSA provider courses clearly
- To ensure that TSs are consistent in their selection of candidates onto courses
- To mitigate any confusion and / or medico-legal liability regarding candidates completing RCSA / AHA endorsed courses

### 1. CPR for Family and Friends™ Programmes and First Aid for Children (RCSA)

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1. This course is intended for anyone who wants to learn CPR and where a course completion card is not required.
2. The recommended minimum age of participation is 12 years, with parental consent.

### 2. Heartsaver™ Programmes and CPR for Everyone course

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1. This course is intended for anyone who wants to learn CPR and where a course completion card may be required (i.e., they have a duty to respond as part of their work or volunteer activities).
2. The recommended minimum age of participation is 14 years.

### 3. Basic Life Support Provider and CPR for Professionals course

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1. This course is intended for Healthcare Providers who have a duty to respond to emergencies in a Healthcare setting and where a course completion card may be required.
2. Requirement 1 does not preclude attendance if the candidate is not a Healthcare provider. Rather, attendance of non-Healthcare providers will be at the discretion of the TS and course coordinator.
3. The recommended minimum age of participation is 16 years.

### 4. Heartsaver & BLS Refresher Courses (Including local RCSA courses)

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1. The minimum entry requirements will be the same as those stipulated under the relevant course.
2. In addition, participants must be able to produce their previous course completion card and manual (both of which must cover the most recently released guidelines for CPR and ECC).

## **5. Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (AHA); Pediatric Advanced Life Support (AHA); and Advanced Resuscitation for Professional Courses (RCSA)**

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1. A valid and non-expired AHA BLS Provider or RCSA CPR for Professionals course completion card; or a valid non-expired ACLS / PALS course completion card.
2. Should the course completion card referred to in point 1 be about to expire, TSs may accept the booking of candidates provided that the course completion card is valid at the time of booking and the ACLS / PALS course is completed within 90 days.
3. Registration in at least one of the following professional categories:
  - HPCSA registered Medical and Dental practitioners, and those still in their internship or community service and registered as such.
  - SANC registered Professional Nurses.
  - Enrolled Nurses may attend RCSA ALS courses provided they receive special permission and recommendation from their heads of unit, and the relevant TS Medical Director; moreover, only those ENs with suitable experience, expertise, and responsibility to participate in Resuscitation will be entitled to participate in RCSA ACLS courses.
  - HPCSA registered ALS Paramedics (i.e., CCA, N Dip or ECP).
  - HPCSA registered Clinical Associates and Emergency Care Technicians (mid-level worker).
  - HPCSA registered Clinical Technologists.
  - Final year students completing the above qualifications.
  - HPCSA Registered ILS Practitioners (i.e., AEA / H. Cert EMC), if they do not practice any of the skills that are outside their scope of practice and sign a formal Memorandum of Agreement in this regard.
  - Any other category not listed above where the TS coordinator is of the opinion that the potential participant is a suitable candidate and where the relevant RCSA Faculty Committee has endorsed this opinion.
  - Successful completion of these courses does not lead to an expansion of the scope of practice of the individual.
4. No one may sit in as a passive observer unless by the express permission of the Executive of the RCSA and the TS Medical Director. No certificates of attendance may be issued to observers, or candidates who do not complete the course.
  - Instructor candidates who are being mentored by the relevant TS Medical Director in anticipation of ACLS / PALS Instructor training may however be allowed to observe.
  - Existing ACLS / PALS instructors, at the discretion of the Medical Director and TS coordinator, may also attend ACLS / PALS courses as observers, in pursuit of continuous quality improvement.
  - The respective ALS TS Medical Director, and / or RCSA / AHA ALS Faculty may sit in at any time in the interests of quality assurance, providing this does not distract from or impinge upon candidates' learning in any way whatsoever.

## **6. Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support for Experienced Providers**

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1. A valid non-expired RCSA / AHA ACLS course completion card.
2. Should the ACLS course completion card be about to expire, TSs may accept the booking of candidates provided that the ACLS course completion card is valid at the time of booking and the ACLS EP course is completed within 90 days.
3. Candidates with extensive experience in ICU / Emergency Medicine may apply to the relevant ACLS Faculty for permission to attend the ACLS EP course even if their ACLS provider certificate is not current and may be granted permission in certain circumstances.

<i>RCSA Policy Title:</i>	RCSA Provider Course Entry Requirements	<i>Date implemented:</i>	Nov 2010
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