

Instrumented Directive Feedback Device Info - July 2017

I recently received an email and survey about a new requirement for feedback devices to be used in AHA CPR training. What is this about? What is the requirement?

The *2015 AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC)* highlighted research showing the benefit of feedback devices that provide learners with real-time, audio-visual corrective feedback on aspects such as chest compression rate, depth, and recoil. Following the scientific evidence on feedback devices, the AHA will soon send out the official announcement that by January 31, 2019, we will require the use of an instrumented directive feedback device or manikin in all AHA courses that teach the skills of adult CPR.

More about the science behind feedback devices in adult CPR training:

- The *2015 AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and ECC* explains, “Learners who used devices that provided corrective feedback during CPR training had improved compression rate, depth, and recoil compared with learners performing CPR without feedback devices.”
Studies have also suggested that the use of directive feedback devices has shortened the practice time to demonstration of competence. These devices have demonstrated more accurate and consistent feedback than instructors have.*
 - **Bhanji F, Donoghue AJ, Wolff MS, et al. Part 14: education: 2015 American Heart Association Guidelines Update for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. Circulation. 2015;132(18 suppl 2): S561-S573.*
- More information on the science can be found throughout Part 14: Education – of the *2015 AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and ECC*.

Why haven't I heard of this requirement before?

The requirement has not been officially announced yet. To gain insight from our Training Network, we are conducting a survey of Training Center Coordinators and Instructors asking about concerns and possible barriers to implement the requirement. Results from the survey are informing us on confusion, concerns, and overwhelming support for a requirement of this type. Many of the concerns and questions will be addressed when the requirement is officially announced.

When will AHA officially announce the requirement?

The AHA will send official communication on the requirement in mid-August 2017.

When would this requirement go into effect?

This requirement would go into effect January 31, 2019, 18 months from now. We set this date knowing that it will take the Training Network some time to integrate feedback devices into courses.

What is an instrumented directive feedback device?

An instrumented directive feedback device measures rate, depth, hand position, release, and chest compression fraction and gives real-time audio feedback or visual feedback (or both audio and visual feedback) on these items. **For the AHA's requirement, at a minimum, the device must measure and give real-time audio feedback or visual feedback (or both) on rate and depth. This sound or visual information then allows students to self-correct their skills.**

Page 28 of the *Highlights of the 2015 AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and ECC* shows a section on High-Fidelity Manikins just after the section on CPR Feedback Devices? Does this mean high-fidelity manikins are the only feedback devices?

No. The Guideline on the use of High-Fidelity Manikins is totally separate from the Guideline on the use of feedback devices. They are simply on the same page. There is more detail in *Part 14: Education of the 2015 AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and ECC*.

What feedback devices are available?

When researching feedback devices, you will find there are many types of instrumented directive feedback devices. There are some that can be added to and used with existing manikins, some are already part of manikins, some are monitor/defibrillators used with manikins, and some are high-fidelity manikins.

What devices specifically meet the AHA's requirement?

The AHA cannot review or recommend specific equipment. TCs purchasing equipment should contact equipment manufacturers for any questions regarding the capability of equipment to meet requirement criteria.

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