



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Clinical Practice: Frequently Asked Question

Q: What are the recommendations for PACU nurses regarding ACLS and PALS?

A: The ASPAN Practice Recommendation: Competencies, Knowledge, and Skills for the Perianesthesia Registered Nurse states:

- **Phase I**
“The perianesthesia registered nurse providing Phase I level of care will maintain a current Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and/or Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) provider status, as appropriate to the patient population served.”¹
- **Phase II**
“It is strongly recommended that the perianesthesia nurse providing Phase II level of care will maintain a current Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and/or Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) or Pediatric Emergency Assessment Recognition and Stabilization (PEARS) provider status, as appropriate to the patient population served.”¹

References:

1. American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses. 2023-2024 perianesthesia nursing standards, practice recommendations and interpretive statements. Cherry Hill, NJ; ASPAN.

This FAQ was reviewed and updated November 2024.