

HeartCode® Voice-Assisted Manikin (VAM) Tips and Troubleshooting

Before you begin:

- If you have any pre-existing injury, please notify your administrator before attempting skills.
- Take time to watch the introductory videos for the adult and infant VAMs as there is information that will assist you in your skills assessments.
- Use proper techniques, per AHA guidelines.
- Start when the computer says, “Start when you are ready.”
- End the skills assessment when the computer says, “Continue if you want more practice.”
- Position the manikin head in the correct tilt position (it helps to have the head hang off the table end).
- Practice making a tight seal around the mouth and nose with the bag-valve mask by making a “C” shape with your hand around the mask and an “E/3” shape with your fingers below the jawline. Give one breath every 5-6 seconds for the adult and every 3-5 seconds for the infant.
- If you get an error (e.g. “Searching for manikins”), ensure the USB cord is attached to the manikin and into the corresponding computer’s USB port.

HeartCode® manikin specifics:

- Use only the correct size bag-valve mask (large for the adult and small for the infant).
- Mouth to manikin mouth is not recommended.
- Manikin skins should remain attached at all times.
- Any writing on the manikins result in permanent damage.

What skills are tested with the Voice-Assisted Manikin (VAM)?

BLS- Adult and Infant		ACLS*- Adult Only
Adult	Infant	Adult
60 Compressions	60 Compressions	-
12 Ventilations	12 Ventilations	12 Ventilations
3 Cycles of CPR	3 Cycles of CPR	3 Cycles of CPR

**Instructor-led ACLS Mega codes may be required by your facility in addition to the HeartCode® course.*

How many times can I do skills assessments? Can I fail the Parts 2 and 3 skills course?

The course allows you to retake each assessment as many times as needed to pass. Please note, you must complete your skills assessments within the AHA deadline of 60 days after completing Part 1. Once you pass, you can always return to the skills assessments to practice.

How is the VAM scored?

You must receive a score of at least 75% for each skill to pass that skill’s assessment. For compressions, depth, rate, and recoil are weighted the most. For ventilations, rate is weighted more than volume. The closer you follow AHA guidelines, the higher your score will be. In CPR, you must pass all three cycles to pass the CPR skills assessment. If you do not achieve a 75% score in any assessment, you are able to retake it as many times as is necessary to pass.