

## American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA):

- To take the course/test go to: <https://ahasso.heart.org/Login/index>
- AHA/ASA customer service: **1-888-242-2453**
- *If you are an AHA/ASA member the NIHSS certification course is free, but otherwise there is a \$10 fee*

## Apex Innovations - Hemispheres 3.0

- To take the course/test go to : <https://login.apexinnovations.com/>
- Apex Innovations' customer support: **866-294-4599 ext. 112** Mon.-Fri. 8am – 4pm CST/9am – 5pm EST
- *This NIHSS certification course is free*

## NIHSS Course Module Intervals:

- NIH Stroke test group A is taken first, followed by test group B, and so on ...
- After passing group A (which expires in one year), you must wait 6 months before taking test group B
- After passing test group B (which expires in two years), you must wait one year before taking test group C
- After passing test group C (which expires in two years), you must wait one year before taking test group D
- Etc ...

*Group A = 6-month interval; certification good for 1 year*

*Groups B through F = 1 year intervals; each certification good for 2 years*

*If your certificate lapses you simply have a lapse in certification and should not document performance of the NIHSS assessment on a stroke patient until re-certified. As soon as you take/pass the next test you were due to take you are re-certified.*

*Professionals should be certified in the performance of the NIHSS.*

*Compliance standardizes the assessment process.*

*Reducing variation in testing techniques promotes inter-rater reliability, creating a common language that is beneficial when communicating regarding the status of a stroke patient.*

**To optimize proficiency and inter-rater reliability, the Stroke Care Network recommends re-certification each year in locations that have low stroke volumes/opportunities to practice performance of this assessment.**