27 Ways to Celebrate

Here at the National Association of Nephrology Technicians/Technologists, we are all caught up in the spirit of National Dialysis Technician Recognition Week for NCTs and NBTs, which starts 10 October 2023. There is so much you can do to express appreciation for the people who work at your organization, and we thought it would be a good idea to share some of our ideas.

It’s essential to make recognition, including rewards, part of your everyday culture. But that doesn’t mean National Dialysis Technician Recognition Week should go unnoticed. These extra-special perks will remind all your NCTs and NBTs how much you care.

**Work**

1. **Educational speakers**

*Give NCTs and NBTs access to thought leaders in dialysis. It’s educational, and entertaining!*

(Pro-tip: [Contact your local NANT Chapter and offer to sponsor a chapter meeting](http://www.dialysistech.net/about-nant/chapters-1))

1. **Budget for the best to attend DTX**

Registration vouchers to DTX41: Dialysis Tech ConneXions, the only event designed by dialysis technicians for dialysis technicians, will be available!)

1. **NANT Gift Memberships**

*Encourage your NCTs and NBTs to join the only professional association for dialysis technicians by purchasing a gift membership. Annual dues are just $25 per NCT/NBT Find more information* [*here*](https://www.dialysistech.net/membership)*. Full members get access to the Managing Up webinar series – a total of 13 contact hours are free to full members.*

1. **Access to NANT Learning Library***Your technicians need contact hours to renew their certification. NANT’s Learning Library has contact hours available – choose by topic or for the whole DTX conference. Once they watch a webinar and complete the validation survey, they will get their contact hour certificate within 15 minutes. Contact* *NANT* *to arrange for gift certificates to the Learning Library.*
2. **Hold executive office hours**

*Typically, your executive team is only accessible to your high-level managers. Give your technicians at all levels the opportunity to connect, share ideas, and ask questions of the leaders at your organization.*

1. **Complete an initiative you’ve been promising**

*Have you been telling employees forever that you’re going to overhaul performance reviews, bring in better snacks, or renovate the office bathrooms? Nothing will show your techs you appreciate them more than by fulfilling those promises.*

1. **Clinic revamp**

*Speaking of renovations, does your unit or break room need a facelift? Major construction isn’t in the cards for everyone, but there are a number of things that can improve employee experience, including: better chairs, better lighting, more plants, a fresh coat of paint, or whatever your NCTs and NBTs say they need!*

1. **Updated electronics**

*Time to do upgrades of laptops, monitors, smartphones, and software. Your employees will be thrilled, and probably more productive.*

1. **A half day off work/ flex vacation day**

*Your NCTs and NBTs will really feel appreciated if you let them leave early one day during National Recognition Week! Or grant everyone one extra vacation day to use as they please; If you’re going to give this gift though, don’t make it too restrictive.*

1. **Extended break times**

*Whether your techs typically get 15-minute breaks or 30-minute lunches, double their break times this week.*

1. **Give volunteering hours**

[Corporate social responsibility](https://www.achievers.com/blog/2015/06/the-importance-of-corporate-social-responsibility/) *is an important way to keep your employees engaged. By giving your employees time off to volunteer, you reinforce your company’s dedication to CSR, and you give your team a great opportunity to get out of the office.*

**Recognition**

1. **Public employee recognition**

*Use the FREE recognition certificates available on the* [*NANT website*](https://www.dialysistech.net/about-nant/national-recognition-week-for-hemodialysis-technicians) *Your unit secretary can easily prepare a certificate for each of your dialysis technicians and print them on your color printer. Go the extra step and put them in a nice folder to present them to each technician and your weekly unit meeting.*

1. **Use the official National Dialysis Technician Recognition Week poster***Decorate your patient waiting area, treatment area, break room, water room with the official* [*National Dialysis Technician Recognition Week*](https://www.dialysistech.net/about-nant/national-recognition-week-for-hemodialysis-technicians) *poster*
2. **Make the recognition personal!**
Put a mirror by the National Dialysis Technician Recognition Week poster so that technicians see that the power of you is in each of them!
3. **Social media employee recognition**

If *you want to praise your great employees for the whole world to see, post individual recognitions on your company’s social media channels. Just be sure to get the employees’ permission before you share their names or photos and don’t forget to use* **#NDTRW22 or #NANT or @NANTDialysis**!

1. **Rewards & recognition suggestion box**

*Of course, it doesn’t have to be a physical box – but it is a great idea to reach out to your employees and ask them what forms of recognition and rewards are the most meaningful to them. Is there something that your recognition or total rewards program is missing? This is a great time to find out.*

1. **Fun for everyone in the clinic**

*Celebrate some of the biggest successes over the past year, whether they were accomplished by individuals or departments. Make the ceremony a fun, creative, event – not just another meeting. Food is a good addition!*

1. **Personalized thank you notes**

*Recognition technology is a powerful thing, but we still love the idea of hand-written notes every now and then. It gives a certain touch!*

 **Gifts & Treats**

1. **Pick-a- gift**

*A gift card from Amazon, Visa, or MasterCard lets your techs pick what works for them.*

1. **High-quality sweet treats**

*Even if you keep the kitchen stocked with mini candy bars, your NCTs and NBTs will be happier if you pick up a box of treats from the local bakery, the popular cupcake place around the corner, or the trendy donut shop.*

1. **Better coffee**

*Get rid of the rocket fuel. Treat your techs to a selection of gourmet beans and blends. Or if budget allows, organize a delivery of their favorite lattes and cappuccinos.*

1. **Fun station drops**

*Give your technicians something fun to look forward to all week by leaving quirky, fun, or useful gifts in their area before they arrive.*

**Wellness**

1. **On-site massage therapists or chiropractors**

*Your NCTs and NBTs are on their feet, hunched over computers, and sitting for long commutes… help them relax.*

1. **Guided meditation**

*Meditation is a great way to reduce stress. Bring in an expert to guide your techs or host a recorded meditation for anyone who wants to participate in a quiet, dim room.*

1. **Free yoga or other exercise classes**

*Hire an on-site yoga or exercise teacher to come in for the day and host a series of classes for NCTs and NBTs.*

1. **Catered lunch and/or breakfast**

*Bring your employees together and give them fuel for their busy day, by supplying healthy lunches or dinners for the whole company.*

1. **Fitness trackers**

*Encourage NCTs and NBTs to keep better track of their steps, heart rate, and sleep by supplying fitness trackers. Bonus: the data from fitness trackers can be used for employee step competitions throughout the year!*