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## **NANT Position Statement on the Recognition and Support of Three Credentialing Programs for Dialysis Technicians**

*Approved by the NANT Board of Directors 22 April 2001  
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NANT supports the development of a standard national program of education and training for dialysis patient care technicians, preferably in a formal setting, that meets federal CMS guidelines with standardized competency testing and with annual continuing education requirements. NANT recognizes a distinction between the patient care aspects of dialysis and the technical elements of the treatment, which include equipment maintenance, water treatment, and dialyzer reuse. With regard to the latter, NANT believes that such individuals must be provided with appropriate training, or have sufficient experience, with standardized competency testing with regard to their responsibilities. NANT agrees to promote standards for education of all practitioners as a means to achieve quality of care.

The National Association of Nephrology Technicians/Technologists (NANT) strongly urges patient care technicians, dialysis technologists and biomedical technicians and technologists to pursue certification by a nationally recognized testing organization. NANT believes that the term, "certification", should be reserved for voluntary private sector programs that attest to the competency of individual health professionals.

NANT recognizes three credentialing programs for dialysis technicians. Each of these programs is designed to measure different levels of competency.

The **Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)** offers two examination programs: Certification for Clinical Hemodialysis Technicians (CCHT) and the Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician Advanced (CCHT-A).

A joint task force of the NANT and the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) initiated the development of the CCHT exam. Technicians are eligible to take the CCHT exam with a *suggested* minimum of **6 months** experience as a Hemodialysis technician. The NNCC CCHT exam measures cognitive levels in four dialysis practice areas: clinical (50%), technical (23%), environmental (15%) and role (12%). NANT recognizes the CCHT examination as a valid measure of basic competency for hemodialysis patient care technicians.

The Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician Advanced examination requires five years of clinical experience as a dialysis technician and evidence of national certification by one of three national certification organizations identified in CMS regulations. The CCHT-A examination also measures knowledge and skill in four dialysis practice areas, however, the percentage of questions in each category is different than the CCHT exam: clinical (52%), technical (25%), environmental (8%), and role (15%). NANT recognizes the CCHT-A examination as a valid measure of clinical and technical proficiency for all dialysis technicians.

The **Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing and Technology (BONENT)** offers an examination for Hemodialysis Technician Certification, leading to the Certified Hemodialysis Technician (CHT) designation. Technicians are eligible to take the CHT exam with a minimum of **12 months** experience in nephrology technology. The BONENT Hemodialysis Technician Certification Examination measures technical proficiency in five major domains of practice and tasks performed in the scope of hemodialysis technology: patient care (65%), machine technology (10%), water treatment (5%), dialyzer reprocessing (5%) and education/personal development (15%). NANT recognizes the CHT examination as a valid measure of technical proficiency for all hemodialysis technicians.

The **National Nephrology Certification Organization (NNCO)** offers two examinations: Clinical Nephrology Technology, leading to the Certified in Clinical Nephrology Technology (CCNT) designation and Biomedical Nephrology Technology, leading to the Certified in Biomedical Nephrology Technology (CBNT) designation. Technicians are eligible to take the CCNT and CBNT exams with a minimum of **12 months** experience in nephrology technology, or upon successful completion of a BONENT Approved Program.

The Clinical Nephrology Technology examination measures knowledge in seven major areas: principles of dialysis (10%), care of the patient with kidney failure (15%), dialysis procedures and documentation (15%), complications of dialysis (15%), water treatment and dialysate preparation (15%), infection control and safety (20%), and dialyzer reprocessing (10%). NANT recognizes the CCNT examination as a valid measure of current competence in the specialized area of practice of patient care hemodialysis technicians.

The Biomedical Nephrology Technology examination measures knowledge in seven major areas: principles of dialysis (25%), scientific concepts (10%), electronic applications (7%), water treatment (23%), equipment functions (13%), environmental/regulatory issues (12%), and dialyzer reuse/reprocessing (10%). NANT recognizes the CBNT examination as a measure of current competence in the specialized area of practice of biomedical hemodialysis technicians.

*For further information, please contact NANT at 937.586.3705 / 877.607.6268  
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NANT encourages technicians to earn certification from the appropriate independent credentialing organization. Technicians should contact their preferred credentialing organization directly for more information about the examination and credentialing process. Please see the next page for contact information for each of these programs.

<b>Examination</b>	<b>Experience Required</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
CCHT	6 months (suggested)	NNCC	P.O. 56 East Holly Avenue Pitman, New Jersey 08071-0056 888.884.6622 FAX 856.589.7463 E-mail: <a href="mailto:nncc@ajj.com">nncc@ajj.com</a> <a href="http://www.nncc-exam.org">www.nncc-exam.org</a>
CCHT-A	5 years & current national certification		
CHT	12 months	BONENT	100 S. Washington St. Rockville MD 20850 202.462.1252 Fax: 202.463.1257 <a href="http://www.BONENT.org">www.BONENT.org</a>
CCNT	1 year	NNCO	Professional Testing Corporation
CCBT	1 year		1350 Broadway, 17 <sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10018 212.356.0660 <a href="http://www.ptcny.com">www.ptcny.com</a>

NANT promotes the highest quality of care for End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients through education and professionalism. It is committed to providing educational opportunities for the technical practitioner and other members of the integrated care team, representing the technical professional in the regulatory and legislative arena, achieving recognition for the role and significant contribution of the technical practitioner to the total care of the ESRD patient and serving as a resource for the ESRD community to accomplish each of these goals. Membership includes technicians/technologists from a variety of specialties, including patient care, equipment maintenance, dialyzer reuse, transplantation and facility administration. For more information about NANT, please contact us at 937.586.3705; fax: 937.586.3699; e-mail: [nant@meinet.com](mailto:nant@meinet.com) or on the web at [www.dialysistech.org](http://www.dialysistech.org) .

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