

Clarification on California Certified Hemodialysis Technicians (CHT) Requirements from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Thank you for your email following up on the All Facility Letter (AFL). We are trying to move the package along through the internal review process so we could hopefully release the letter very soon.

At this time, I can share with you, the emphasis of the letter which is a reiteration of the chaptered Senate Bill 112 most particularly the following three (3) requirements vital to the initial and continued certification of hemodialysis technicians (HT). As you know HTs have until April 15, 2010 to complete the requirements:

- 1) Have a high school diploma or equivalency or have greater than four (4) years experience in dialysis as of October 14, 2008; **AND**,
- 2) Have successfully completed a California Department of Public Health (CDPH) approved hemodialysis training program. A person “successfully completes a training program” if he or she completes all classroom portions of the program and demonstrates competency in the knowledge and skills provided by the program. The training program must include all of the following subjects, at a minimum:
 - a) Principles of dialysis.
 - b) Care of patients with kidney failure, including interpersonal skills.
 - c) Dialysis procedures and documentation, including initiation, proper cannulation techniques, monitoring, and termination of dialysis.
 - d) Possible complications of dialysis.
 - e) Water treatment and dialysate preparation.
 - f) Infection control.
 - g) Safety.
 - h) Dialyzer reprocessing, if applicable.
 - i) Training and testing in the administration of local anesthetics, heparin, and sodium chloride solutions.

A person employed as a hemodialysis technician by a hemodialysis clinic or unit for more than two (2) years as of October 14, 2008, who does not have documentation of having successfully completed a training program, will be in compliance by doing both of the following:

- a) Passing a written exam, offered by a hemodialysis clinic or unit, or a community or corporate-based training program; and
 - b) Passing a skills checklist through observation by a registered nurse; **AND**,
- 3) Have successfully accomplished either of the following:
- a) Passed a standardized test approved by the CDPH; or
 - b) Passed an examination offered by a national commercially available certification program for hemodialysis technicians which is approved for this purpose by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

We revised the application form “Certified Hemodialysis Technician Initial/Renewal Application” (HS 283F) and will be posting the new version on our website once the final CDPH approval is secured.

If you have any questions for CDPH please contact:

- Michael Egstad, Chief of the CNA/HHA/CHT Certification Unit at (916) 552-8893, Michael.Egstad@cdph.ca.gov for CHT certification questions, and
- Richard Maes, Chief of the TPR&PS Unit at (916) 552-8873, Richard.Maes@cdph.ca.gov for training program and Independent examiner questions.

You may also email questions to cna@cdph.ca.gov.