



**What do I need to be a CALIFORNIA Certified Hemodialysis Technician (CHT)?**

Requirements Effective as of April 15, 2010	CA Reference	Fed Reference
CDPH "All Facilities Letter" describing the NEW Certified Hemodialysis Technician (CHT) Certification Requirements	<a href="#">Click for AFL</a>	
<b>Requirement 1)</b> High school diploma or equivalent (GED)	§1247.61 (a)	§494.140 (e) (2)
<b>Requirement 2)</b> Must have successfully completed a <b>California</b> state approved training program (i.e. approved by CDPH)	§1247.61 (b)	§494.140 (e) (3)
<b>Requirement 3)</b> Pass the California Dialysis Council (CDC) State Approved Exam <b>or</b> one of the CMS approved National Exams	§1247.61 (c) (1)	§494.140 (e) (4)
Complete the CDPH Initial/Renewal CHT application which can be found at: <a href="http://www.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/forms/CtrldForms/hs283f.pdf">http://www.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/forms/CtrldForms/hs283f.pdf</a>	<a href="#">Click for Form</a>	

**To check the status of a patient care technician's certification**, facilities can call the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system at (916) 327-2445. Or check on CDPH's web site at:  
<http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/cvl/SearchPage.aspx> .

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

On November 3, 2008, the California Department of Public Health sent a letter (AFL 08-30) informing the public that effective April 15, 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), established new conditions for coverage for dialysis facilities to be certified under the Medicare program. The conditions established specific standards which include the certification of Patient Care Technicians (PCTs), known in California as Certified Hemodialysis Technicians (CHTs).

The following questions and answers may clarify questions concerning this matter:

**Question #1:** *I am a Nationally Certified Hemodialysis Technician (CCHT/CHT/CCNT) **not** living in California, what do I need to do to be able to work as a Hemodialysis Technician in California?*

**Answer:** You must be certified by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) by meeting the requirements 1, 2 and 3 as indicated in the table above and submit your application (bottom row of the table above) to CDPH for approval. As a Nationally Certified Hemodialysis Technician you must have already met requirements # 1 and 3, but still need to have successfully completed a **California** state approved training program. At the discretion of the dialysis facility, you may be able to work as a Trainee Patient Care Technician while you complete the facility's training program.

**Question #2:** *What are the current requirements for working as a Hemodialysis Patient Care Technician in California?*

**Answer:** See table above

**Question #3:** *I have passed the CDC State exam and am certified by the State; do I also have to take and pass one of the National Exams to work in California?*

**Answer:** No ~ Please refer to Requirement #3 in the above table. You need to pass ONLY ONE exam. The CDC Exam **OR** one of the National Exams.

**Question #4:** *If I take the nationally available certification test, can I use that to become certified in other states?*

**Answer:** Each state is different. You should contact the state in which you choose to work and inquire about their specific requirements. Refer to CMS letter dated October 30, 2009.

[http://www.californiadialysis.org/Docs/Resource/PCT/SC10\\_03\\_ESRD%20PCTcertification.pdf](http://www.californiadialysis.org/Docs/Resource/PCT/SC10_03_ESRD%20PCTcertification.pdf)

**Question #5:** *Where can I take a technician exam and what is the fee for the testing?*

**Answer:** You will need to contact one of the four (4) currently approved testing organizations:

- California Dialysis Council ~ \$175.00 (Late registration fee \$200.00 - two weeks prior to the exam date)  
1904 Naomi Place [www.californiadialysis.org](http://www.californiadialysis.org)  
Prescott, AZ 86303
- Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician (CCHT) offered by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) ~ \$195.00  
East Holly Avenue, Box 56 [www.ncc-exam.org](http://www.ncc-exam.org)  
Pittman, NJ 08071-0056
- Board of Nephrology Examiners for Nursing and Technology (BONENT) ~ \$200.00  
901 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 607 [www.bonent.org](http://www.bonent.org)  
Washington DC 20006
- National Nephrology Certification Organization (NNCO) examination ~ \$245.00  
1350 Broadway 17th floor [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com)  
New York, NY 10018

**Question #6:** *What happens if I take an exam and fail?*

**Answer:** To work as a dialysis technician in California, you must take and pass the CDC exam or any of the CMS approved national certification examinations. You will not be eligible to work as a dialysis technician after April 15, 2010, until you have successfully passed an approved exam and met the other requirements listed in the table above.

**Question #7:** *How many times can I take the CDC exam or any of the CMS approved national certification examinations?*

**Answer:** At this time there are no limits on the number of times that an exam may be taken, with certain restrictions. You should contact the exam organizations (listed above) directly to obtain the most current information.

**Question #8:** *I have passed the CDC PCT Exam and currently certified in California. I am planning on moving to another state, will the CDC PCT Exam be accepted in that state?*

**Answer:** NO ~ but we would suggest that you refer to CMS letter dated October 30, 2009

[http://www.californiadialysis.org/Docs/Resource/PCT/SC10\\_03\\_ESRD%20PCTcertification.pdf](http://www.californiadialysis.org/Docs/Resource/PCT/SC10_03_ESRD%20PCTcertification.pdf)  
for specific state information. Also contact the state directly for current information.

**Question #9:** *If I pass a National Certification Exam, will I need to maintain that National Certification in order to continue working in California?*

**Answer:** Not in California, but other states may vary. Refer to CMS letter dated October 30, 2009 [http://www.californiadialysis.org/Docs/Resource/PCT/SC10\\_03\\_ESRD%20PCTcertification.pdf](http://www.californiadialysis.org/Docs/Resource/PCT/SC10_03_ESRD%20PCTcertification.pdf) for specific state information.

**Question #10:** *What if I'm BONENT certified? Can I work in California without taking the California exam?*

**Answer:** You must still meet **ALL** of the other requirements outlined in Question #2 in order to work in California. Only technicians that have been certified by the California Department of Public Health may work in California.

**Question #11:** *What if I don't have a High School Diploma?*

**Answer:** If you have at least 4 years of work experience, as of October 14, 2008, as a dialysis technician, you may supply evidence of such experience in lieu of a High School Diploma or equivalent. If you do not have this experience you will need to obtain a High School Diploma or its equivalent, such as the General Education Degree (GED).

**Question #12:** *What if I can't provide evidence that I successfully completed a training program that meets the requirements?*

**Answer:** As per the California Business & Professions Code 1247, you must show evidence of completing a **California** state approved training program. You may accomplish this at your place of employment or at an approved private training school. **OR** A person employed as a hemodialysis technician by a **California** 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

**Question #13:** *Where can I get course review material?*

**Answer:** There are a number of resources are listed on page four (4) of our Examination Application Booklet ([Click Here](#) for a copy). An on line version of the Amgen Core Curriculum for the Dialysis Technician is available at: [http://www.meiresearch.org/core\\_curriculum.php](http://www.meiresearch.org/core_curriculum.php).

More information regarding Hemodialysis Technician Certification maybe found on the CDC web site resource page at: [http://www.californiadialysis.org/res\\_pct\\_info.html](http://www.californiadialysis.org/res_pct_info.html)