



MARK B HORTON, MD, MSPH  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor

### 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, 2008, 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 have been a California Certified Hemodialysis Technician for a long time. Do I have to take the test?

Answer: Yes, this is a regulation established on April 15, 2008, by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). You will need to comply with both the Federal regulation and State requirements.

Question #2: Do I have to take the nationally available certification test?

Answer: Yes, if you continue working as a CHT, you must comply with the Federal regulation.

Question #3: If I take the nationally available certification test, will I or 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 on their requirements.

Question #4: What is the fee for the new testing?

Answer: You will need to contact one of the three (3) nationally commercially available certification programs.

► **Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician (CCHT) offered by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)**

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)**

901 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 607                      [www.bonent.org](http://www.bonent.org)  
Washington D.C. 20006

► **National Nephrology Certification Organization (NNCO) examination**

1350 Broadway 17th floor                      [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com)  
New York, NY 10018

Question #5: Do I need to renew both certifications?

Answer: In order to work in California, you will need to follow both the Federal regulation and California regulations. You can contact the commercially-available certification programs to inquire information on the renewal process.