

All Hemodialysis Patient Care Technicians Must Become Certified by April 14, 2010!

All dialysis patient care technicians must become certified by April 14, 2010, according to the Conditions for Coverage, which were published in the Federal Register on April 15, 2008. Because not everyone passes the certification exam on the first attempt, it is advisable to test early (at least by December 31, 2009) in order to have an opportunity to re-test, if needed.

CCHT Eligibility Criteria (NNCC)

1. The applicant must possess a minimum of a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED). As of 10/14/08, hemodialysis patient care technicians with greater than 4 years of work experience and lacking evidence of a high school diploma or its equivalent, may use experience in lieu of the high school diploma.
2. The applicant must have successfully completed a training program for hemodialysis patient care technicians that included both classroom instruction and supervised clinical experience.
3. The applicant must obtain the signature of a preceptor/supervisor to verify training and clinical experience. It is recommended, but not required, that an applicant have a minimum of six months (or 1,000 hours) of clinical experience, including the training period, prior to taking the exam.
4. The applicant must be in compliance with state regulations of the practice of hemodialysis patient-care technicians. Applicants must meet the experience requirement (for certification) of the state in which they practice.

CHT Eligibility Criteria (Bonent)

1. A copy of a high school diploma or official transcript (with principal signature and/or school seal), one year (12 months) of experience in nephrology patient care and current active participation in an ESRD facility.
2. PCTs with greater than 4 years work experience in dialysis, who lack evidence of a high school diploma, may use that work experience in lieu of the requirement for high school diploma.
3. All experience must be verified by two *signed* letters of reference:
 - a. One from the applicant's immediate supervisor
 - b. The other from a professional, e.g. a peer or mentor in the field of nephrology

CCNT Eligibility Criteria (NNCO)

1. Have a minimum of a high school diploma or the equivalent, or four years of full time experience in the field of nephrology technology
2. Completion of a one year nephrology training program with clinical experience and/or completion of a combination nephrology technology training program of less than one year and work experience equivalent to one year

Next Steps

- Download an application to sit for the exam:
 - CCHT - www.nncc-exam.org *
 - CHT - www.bonent.org/examinations/cht.html
 - CCNT – www.ptcny.com/clients/NNCO **

*Starting January 2010, the CCHT exam will be offered via computer based testing. Please visit the NNCC website at www.nncc-exam.org for a listing of computer based testing centers.

**The exam is given at a computer center, so once the PCT has their acceptance letter, they can contact a PSI/LaserGrade testing center. The website for finding a LaserGrade testing center is www.lasergrade.com/locate.shtml.

- Complete all areas of the application and mail with the appropriate fee and supporting documentation
- Application deadlines are as follows:
 - CCHT – approximately 10 weeks prior to the exam date
 - CHT – 45 days prior to the exam date
 - CCNT – one month prior to preferred test date
- Exam fees are as follows:
 - CCHT - \$150 (for exams occurring after 1/1/2010, the exam fee will be \$195)
 - CHT - \$200-\$225
 - CCNT - \$245
- If you have not received your testing permit approximately two weeks prior to the scheduled examination, please contact the accreditation agency for potential follow-up