

**Patient Care Tech Certification  
Rules Go Into Effect April 15, 2010  
Web Sites Offer Training/Certification Options**

April 15 is the effective date for technician certification requirements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As mandated in the Conditions for Coverage for End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities, patient care techs (PCT) must meet specifications for training and certification. These PCT requirements are listed in §494.140(e), and they are also included in the ESRD Interpretive Guidance, under Subpart D: Administration, §494.140 Condition: Personnel Qualifications.

The ESRD Interpretive Guidance is a guideline for surveyors. Listed below are some of the PCT requirements from the ESRD Interpretive Guidance, along with its corresponding V-tag:

**Patient Care Technician Definition – V 692**

Any person who provides direct patient care or sets up machines for patient use and is not classified as another professional (i.e., nurse or social worker).

**Educational Requirements – V 692**

PCTs must have a high school diploma or equivalency.

PCTs with more than four years work experience in dialysis as of October 14, 2008, and who lack a high school diploma or its equivalency, may use work experience in lieu of the diploma/equivalency requirement.

**Required Training in the Facility – V693**

PCTs must successfully complete the approved training program offered by their facility or company.

PCTs must demonstrate competency in knowledge and skills by successfully completing a written exam and skills checklists, which are then signed by a registered nurse (RN).

**Certification “Required by “dates – V 695**

PCTs working on October 14, 2008 must be certified by April 15, 2010.

PCTs hired after October 14, 2008 must be certified within 18 months of their hire date.

Note: If an uncertified PCT moves from one facility to another, the time they were employed in the first facility will count toward their 18 month deadline for certification, unless there is a gap of 18 months in employment as a PCT.

**Approved Federal Certifications – V 695**

Check these organizations and their Web sites for information on approved certification training and examinations:

- Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician (CCHT) exam – offered by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC), [www.nncc-exam.org](http://www.nncc-exam.org)
- Certified Hemodialysis Technologists/Technician (CHT) exam – offered by the Board of Nephrology Examiners for Nursing and Technology (BONENT), [www.bonent.org](http://www.bonent.org).
- Certification Examination in Clinical Nephrology Technology offered by the National Nephrology Certification Organization (NNCO), [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com).

**Additional Resources**

For a download of *Core Curriculum for the Dialysis Technician, A Comprehensive Review of Hemodialysis (Fourth Edition)*, go to the Medical Education Institute (MEI),  
<http://www.meiresearch.org/corecurriculum/>

For complete details on PCT certification rules, download the full Conditions for Coverage and/or the Interpretive Guidance at [http://www.therenalnetwork.org/home/Conditions\\_for\\_Coverage.php](http://www.therenalnetwork.org/home/Conditions_for_Coverage.php)