



Hemodialysis Technician

Facts about Hemodialysis Technician & Job Opportunities

Hemodialysis Technicians operate dialysis machinery and perform dialysis on patients with acute or chronic kidney failure. Dialysis is a process that removes waste products and fluids from a patient's blood and vascular system.

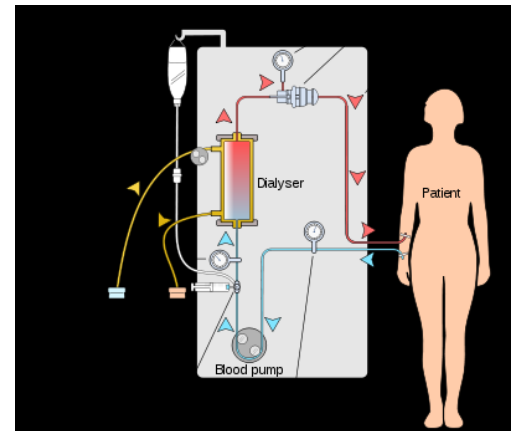
The Department of Health Services indicates that as of early 2003, there were about 4,800 Dialysis Technicians certified in California. The Department indicates that this number has increased since certification became a requirement to work in the field.

There are two factors that influence growth in this occupation: 1) The number of patients on dialysis continues to increase and 2) Hemodialysis Technicians are increasingly replacing registered nurses in treatment centers. Dialysis patients also tend to stay in treatment longer. This is in addition to the general population increase and the rise in the elderly population, which is the age group that is most likely to require dialysis care

What Does a Hemodialysis Tech Do?

Hemodialysis Technicians perform their duties under the supervision of physicians or registered nurses. They have clinical and technical skills and can be responsible for direct patient care as well as dialysis equipment maintenance and repair. Some of the tasks performed are the following:

- Get dialyzer (artificial kidney) and delivery system ready
- Monitor all equipment while in use, and clean equipment following treatment
- Record the patient's weight and vital signs before and after treatment
- Observe the patient during the dialysis procedure, monitoring and recording vital signs during treatment
- Administer local anesthetics and drugs under supervision.
- Assess patients for any complications that occur during the procedure
- Train patients for at-home dialysis treatment.



Working Environment

Hemodialysis Technicians work primarily in outpatient dialysis clinics. They work in clean, climate-controlled environments. They often stand for prolonged periods of time, and the work can be strenuous. Working with seriously ill patients, they face exposure to infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis, as well as exposure to hazardous chemicals while carrying out their duties. These risks can be minimized by following prescribed sterilization procedures and by using universal precautions such as gowns, gloves, and face shields.

How Much Can I Earn?

An informal survey of wages shows that Hemodialysis Technicians generally start at about \$15.00-\$19.00 per hour, and work up to about \$20.00-\$25.00 per hour depending on the work setting. Technicians who work evenings or night shifts usually earn a shift differential of about \$2.00 - \$3.50 per hour. Technicians affiliated with large, acute-care hospitals normally receive higher salaries than Technicians employed in outpatient clinics. Wages are generally higher in urban areas. Salaries can be notably lower in other states in the U.S. For more information on salaries go to:

<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>

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