



Health Career Directory

Renal Dialysis Technician

Overview

Renal Dialysis Technicians set up, operate, monitor, and adjust equipment during dialysis under the direction of nursing and/or medical staff. Dialysis Technicians operate machines that remove waste and excess fluids from the blood of patients whose kidneys can no longer carry out those functions. They perform a variety of related functions, such as demonstrating renal dialysis equipment and procedures to new hires. They also clean and sterilize renal dialysis equipment. In addition, renal dialysis technicians carefully record weight and vital signs before, and after the blood cleansing procedures. Because dialysis technicians work with blood, they must exercise strict safety precautions against infectious diseases, such as hepatitis and AIDS

Who is suited to become a Renal Dialysis Technician?

Renal Dialysis Technicians are most effective when they have the following skills and characteristics:

- ability to be precise and accurate
- good communication skills, both orally and written
- ability to work under pressure
- be able to fully understand patients' needs
- ability to operate related equipment
- compassionate, dependable, ethical, and mature
- ability to organize and prioritize workload priorities in collaboration with others
- strong social skills and leadership ability
- are comfortable working with instruments, apparatus, and technology
- ability to manage high levels of stress associated with life threatening situations and medical conditions.
- self-discipline and self-directed
- the ability to multi-task in a complex and fast-paced environment
- a clean record, no prior criminal background.

They should enjoy:

- working in a fast paced health care environment where they have a genuine interest in caring for people
- working directly with people who are unwell
- working cooperatively with others in a team environment.

Who employs Renal Dialysis Technician?

Renal Dialysis Technicians work as part of the interdisciplinary team. They work primarily in hospitals or clinics, in both rural and urban settings. In BC, they are employed by the Health authorities. They work shift hours, alternating weekends, and are on call.

Salary

Salary Range - \$22 - \$23 per hours/\$42,000 - \$44,000 annually

Required Training and Education to Become a Renal Dialysis Technician

Renal Dialysis Technician Certificate

This intensive certificate program is 7 ½ weeks and combines theory and clinical practice. Renal dialysis technicians work as part of the healthcare team providing quality care to patients undergoing hemodialysis in acute care centres or community clinics. They also manage the operation, maintenance, and quality control of the equipment used.

Career Advancement

Renal Dialysis can be a very rewarding profession. Most Renal Dialysis Technicians remain in clinical practice for a long time as they enjoy working in a team environment. In order to progress to management positions, more education and training are required.

Resources

Education Programs

Vancouver Community College

http://www.vcc.ca/programs-courses/details.cfm?div=6&area=CS_HEALTH&prog=RENAL

Financial assistance and bursaries

For information about Canada student loans and grants, please visit:

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/canada_student_loan/index.shtml

Association

Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists

<http://www.cannt.ca/en/index.html>