



## **FAQs: DIALYSIS TASKS/ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO CERTIFICATION AS A DTI**

The Board receives questions about dialysis activities that may be performed by individuals who complete a dialysis technician training program but who are not yet certified as a Dialysis Technician Intern (DTI). The FAQs below provide information related to these questions.

For purposes of these FAQs, “unlicensed individual” means an individual who has completed a dialysis technician training program but is not yet certified as a DTI.

**Q:** I have completed a dialysis technician training program but am not yet certified as a DTI. May I perform dialysis activities since I completed the training program even though I do not have my DTI certificate?

**A:** No. You may not function as a DTI until your DTI certificate is issued. You are in a similar situation to nursing students who complete their education program, and who cannot practice as a nurse until they receive their nursing license.

**Q:** What activities may I perform between the time I complete a dialysis technician training program and become certified as a DTI?

**A:** During this period of time you may function as an unlicensed individual and perform activities delegated to you by a licensed nurse (RN, or LPN at the direction of a RN), in accordance with Chapter 4723-13, Ohio Administrative Code. There is no provision in the Nurse Practice Act for the individuals to engage in dialysis technician care under the supervision of a “preceptor.”

Some of the activities that may be performed if delegated, if the delegating nurse has determined the unlicensed person has the necessary training, ability and skills, and if appropriate for the patient and the clinical circumstances, include:

- Taking vital signs
- Reviewing dialysis orders with respect to verifying dialyzer, dialysate, bath. Please note that any person may review and check against these against an order, but the authorized person performing dialysis would be ultimately responsible.
- Using a test strip to verify that cleaning agents, e.g., chlorine, are

not present

- Connecting the dialysis tubing on the dialysis machine (“stringing”)
- Placing dialysis needles into arterio-venous fistula or graft, if the delegating nurse is present with the unlicensed individual and the specific patient and determines it is appropriate
- Removing access needles and hold site until hemostasis is achieved

Any procedures involving performing the dialysis, IV fluids, anticoagulants, or any other medications cannot be delegated by a licensed nurse and therefore, you may NOT perform these activities as an unlicensed individual. Examples include the following:

- Priming blood tubing and dialyzer with normal saline
- Administering heparin boluses
- Starting the dialysis run
- Resolving a pressure alarm by adjusting machine settings or administering fluid boluses cannot be delegated.
- Returning blood to patient because it involves the administration of normal saline