

# Dialysis Technology

**DENIS RABBAT**  
Professional Practice Leader (Charlton, King)

## Scope of Practice

The Clinical Nephrology Technologist maintains and services dialysis equipment, provides technical support to patients, nursing, and medical students; Initiates, monitors, and discontinues dialysis treatments, in collaboration with RNs within a shared care model; Services and maintains Dialysis equipment in patients' homes; Functions as a renal perfusionist and coordinator for kidney transplants; and is responsible for ministry reporting of all program activities.

The Non-Registered Technician is responsible for the setup and priming of hemodialysis treatments, in-center and in acute settings. Ensures the accuracy of data capture for ministry reporting of all program activities on a monthly basis; and through the DTC role, is responsible for tracking patient movement throughout their journey within the program.

## Number of Members of Discipline:

SITE	FTE	POSITION
Charlton	30	Clinical Nephrology Technologist Non-Registered Nephrology Technician Data Traffic Controller (DTC) Senior Nephrology Technologist Quality Coordinator ADS-11 (Administrative Assistant)
King	21	Clinical Nephrology Technologist Non-Registered Nephrology Technician Senior Nephrology Technologist
OFFSITE:		
Ohsweken	4	Clinical Nephrology Technologist Non-Registered Nephrology Technician
Brantford	4	Clinical Nephrology Technologist Non-Registered Nephrology Technician

## Major Achievements

### CARING Clinical Practice:

- Redesigned and reintroduced Nocturnal dialysis program at Charlton
- Expanded services at Ohsweken by increasing hours and site accessibility with the introduction of a 3<sup>rd</sup> shift to make dialysis more accessible to those in the area
- Received a donation of 15 dialysis machines for a dialysis unit operating on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts and Nevis; a week of time, skill and expertise by a technologist were also donated to ensure the machines were in top operating order after they arrived
- Processed, rather than disposed of, retired equipment to provide funds to endow a patient's comfort fund



*SIX NATIONS DIALYSIS AT THE SIX PINES WELLNESS CENTRE*

## LEARNING

### Education:

#### Clinical Education

- Participated in the Kidney Fair for 1<sup>st</sup> year medical students, expanding on various aspects of Dialysis Technology
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year Biomedical Engineering Technology Students 2 month Co-op placement



**TECHNOLOGIST LEADING AN  
EDUCATIONAL SESSION**

#### Formal Teaching

- Provided regular guest instructors for the Durham College Biomedical Engineering Technology program
- Participated in Take You Kids to Work Day introducing grade 9 high school students to the field of medical technology

#### Internal Education

- Provided education and orientation to new staff, physician learners and other health disciplines on various aspects of dialysis equipment

### Research

- Part of 'Dialmag' research initiative; study aims to quantify and qualify the effect of magnesium levels in dialysate fluid with the incidence of muscle cramping during hemodialysis treatments

## BUILDING

### Professional Practice Development:

- Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists (CANNT) membership; continue to contribute to the national recognition of the work of dialysis technologists

## LEADING

- Sustainable Dialysis initiative: currently in the data collection phase but aiming to minimize waste and reduce resources used throughout the dialysis program with current areas of focus: waste and garbage generating at the Ohsweken site with cooperation of Environmental Services Department and, assessing the opportunity to reduce frequency of routine bloodwork drawn for hemodialysis patients. Looking in the future to affect general waste, biohazardous waste, linen use, natural gas use, water use and use of electricity
- Transition home dialysis patients to a next generation dialysis machine
- Introduce technology upgrade to Peritoneal Dialysis patients dialyzing in the home; system includes clinical connectivity, allowing for remote monitoring of treatments

### External Activities:

#### Presentations

- Presentation at CANNT 2023: "Supporting hemodialysis patients through nursing-technologist collaborative education." Exploring the effectiveness of collaborative care in passive patient learning. Using patient feedback to help identify knowledge gaps and develop new methods of patient education.

#### Committees

- Durham College Program Advisory Committee in the Biomedical Engineering Technology program.
- CANNT

## Major Initiatives for 2024/25:

### CARING

- Maintain equipment recycling to build resources available for dialysis patients

### BUILDING

- Replace existing water treatment system for King St. Dialysis Unit

### LEADING

- Continue progress of Sustainable Dialysis initiative



***MACHINE DECOMMISSIONING FOR PATIENT  
COMFORT FUND***