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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: February 1, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 218 – *Health Occupations – Nursing – Dialysis Technicians*

DaVita, Fresenius Medical Care, Independent Dialysis Foundation, and U.S. Renal Care, the leading providers of kidney care in Maryland, support House Bill 218. Simply stated, House Bill 218 removes the requirement that an individual be certified as a nursing assistant in order to receive certification as a dialysis technician (DT). Under the bill, to be a DT, an individual would still be required to complete a dialysis training program that is approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON) **AND** receive a national certification either through:

- Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission; or
- Clinical Nephrology Technician by the National Nephrology Certification Organization; or
- Certified Hemodialysis Technician by the Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing Technology.

As illustrated in the attached chart, Maryland is the only state that requires an individual to be a certified as a nursing assistant in order to work as a DT. The work performed by DTs is very different in scope than that often performed by a certified nursing assistant (CNA). For example, CNAs perform such tasks as assisting with oral hygiene; performing range of motion; measuring and recording urinary output; providing perineal care and catheter care; making an occupied bed; providing foot care and fingernail care; assisting in feeding and positioning; providing baths; and assisting with daily hygiene tasks.

Given that dialysis is performed in chronic, ambulatory settings, the tasks typically performed by CNAs are not being performed nor needed to be performed by DTs. Rather, DTs are trained to perform the following:

- Initiation of treatment
- Proper cannulation techniques of accesses

- Monitoring patients during treatment
- Termination of dialysis
- Identifying and addressing possible complications of dialysis
- Water treatment and dialysate preparation
- Operation of kidney dialysis equipment and machines.

As you know, Maryland is facing a significant health care worker shortage. Dialysis centers are equally affected and are competing with hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living, and other entities to hire CNAs. Dialysis centers then have the added requirement to train them DTs. It is important to note that dialysis centers are eligible to be approved by the MBON to teach the CNA DT Program. Unfortunately, MBON's approval process, both for the course and the instructors, is time-consuming and often creates additional angst in the hiring process. Consequently, the need to obtain both the CNA classification and the DT classification is proving to have a detrimental effect on the ability to staff dialysis centers, which creates service issues for ensuring that this life-saving service remains available to those in need. Equally important is the fact that there is no evidence available to demonstrate that Maryland patients receive a higher quality of care in Maryland than received in other states by this added requirement.

Therefore, we urge a favorable vote on House Bill 218.

For more information call:

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House Bill 218: Health Occupations – Nursing – Dialysis Technicians

Summary: Authorizes dialysis technicians to be certified without obtaining a nursing assistant certification. Maryland is the ONLY state that requires this dual certification – certified nursing assistant AND dialysis technician.

State	Certification Requirement	Training/Licensure
Maryland	CNA – DT CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT	Must complete the CNA requirements PLUS complete a dialysis training program that is approved by the MBON and receive a national certification either through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission; or • Clinical Nephrology Technician by the National Nephrology Certification Organization; or • Certified Hemodialysis Technician by the Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing Technology.
Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT	Complete a dialysis training program and receive a national certification either through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission; or • Clinical Nephrology Technician by the National Nephrology Certification Organization.
California	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT AND CHT -A	Individual facility receives governing body approval and under facility’s medical director or a group medical director submits training program to Department of Health for approval. For hemodialysis technicians must either pass a standardized test that is approved by the California Department of Public Health or pass an examination offered by a national commercially available certification program for hemodialysis technician.

State	Certification Requirement	Training/Licensure
Colorado	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT	Complete a training program that is approved by the medical director and governing body of the facility, under the direction of a registered nurse, focused on the operation of kidney dialysis equipment and machines, providing direct patient care, and communication and interpersonal skills, including patient sensitivity training and care of difficult patients.
District of Columbia		Register with the District in addition to obtaining national certification.
Maine	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT	Facility governing body & medical director approval of training program.
Mississippi	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT AND MS State CCHT certification	Registered with the MS DOH and must be certified nationally (CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT) AND maintain state of MS (CCHT) cert. The national certification and state certification follows CMS timeframe (18 months or less based on experience).
Nebraska	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT	Training program approved by medical director, administrated by FA or RN.
Nevada	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT	Need "history of dialysis" course. 5 CEU required annually
New Mexico	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT AND CHT	CHT- (NM state certification), which allows nine months to obtain State certification. A hemodialysis technician must be certified by the State in New Mexico. Requires an examination with the NM Board of Nursing. Patient Care Technician must successfully complete a board-approved training program and submit an application and other required documents, pay a fee to the BON.
Ohio	DTI (Dialysis Technician Intern) certification OCDT (Ohio DTI Certification)** AND CCHT-NNC or CHT-BONENT	Complete a training program and pass a national exam and then apply for a OCDT.
Oregon	CCHT-NNC or CHT-BONENT AND CDHT (State Certification)	Provisional certification valid for 6 months prior to taking exam and renewable for an additional Training program approved by governing body- no state approval needed but TM must be walked through application process.
South Dakota	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT	No license but registration with BON required once national test is passed.
Texas	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State VOC that includes: Texas-Required Theory: History of Dialysis, Blood Glucose Monitoring, and

State	Certification Requirement	Training/Licensure
		Administration of Oxygen. Requires 5 hours of CEU related to ESRD annually.
Utah	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT	<p>Complete a dialysis training program and receive a national certification either through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission; or • Clinical Nephrology Technician by the National Nephrology Certification Organization.
Washington	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT AND maintain state of WA (MA-HT) certification	Training program and requirements can be approved by facility governing body.
Wisconsin	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT	<p>Complete a dialysis training program and receive a national certification either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission; or • Clinical Nephrology Technician by the National Nephrology Certification Organization;
West Virginia	CCHT-NNCC or CHT-BONENT AND DTC (Dialysis Technician Credential)	<p>Complete a dialysis training program that is approved by the BON and receive a national certification either through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission; or • Clinical Nephrology Technician by the National Nephrology Certification Organization; or • Certified Hemodialysis Technician by the Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing Technology