



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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GUIDELINES FOR APPROVAL OF DIALYSIS TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAMS

SD ADMINISTRATIVE RULES 20:48:04.02 : DELEGATION OF NURSING TASKS TO DIALYSIS TECHNICIANS

20:48:04.02.01. Definition of dialysis technician. A dialysis technician is an individual who is not licensed as a nurse under SDCL 36-9 but is trained to assist a nurse in outpatient hemodialysis units with the provision of basic clinical and technical tasks in the care of clients with end stage renal disease as delegated by the nurse and authorized by this chapter.

20:48:04.02.02. Definition of end stage renal disease. End stage renal disease is the stage of renal impairment that appears to be irreversible, permanent, and requires a regular course of dialysis or kidney transplantation to maintain life.

20:48:04.02.03. Additional functions performed by licensed practical nurse (LPN) in kidney dialysis. Nothing in this chapter may be construed to affect the practice of the LPN performing additional specialized nursing functions in kidney dialysis pursuant to §20:48:04:02.03.

20:48:04.02.04. Training required for dialysis technician. A licensed nurse may delegate select tasks of hemodialysis authorized under this chapter to a dialysis technician who has a minimum of a high school education or equivalent and has completed training outlined in §20:48:04:02.09.

20:48:04.02.05. Nursing tasks that may be delegated to dialysis technician. The following may be delegated to a dialysis technician, if delegation is in compliance with the criteria for delegation and supervision set forth in:

§ **20:48:04.01.01. General criteria for delegation.** The registered nurse (RN) is responsible for the nature and quality of nursing care that a client receives under the nurse's direction. To achieve full utilization of the services of an RN or LPN, the licensed nurse may delegate selected nursing tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP). The UAP may complement the licensed nurse in the performance of nursing functions but may not substitute for the nurse. The UAP may not redelegate a delegated act.

A licensed nurse is accountable to practice in accordance with the scope of practice as defined in [SDCL Chapter 36-9](#). The delegating nurse is accountable for assessing a situation and making the final decision to delegate. The delegation of nursing tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel must comply with these criteria:

1. The nursing task is one that a reasonable and prudent licensed nurse would find within the scope of sound nursing judgment to delegate
2. The nursing task is one that, in the opinion of the delegating licensed nurse, can be properly and safely performed by unlicensed assistive personnel without jeopardizing the client's welfare
3. The nursing task does not require unlicensed assistive personnel to exercise nursing judgment
4. The licensed nurse evaluates the client's nursing care needs before delegating the nursing task
5. The licensed nurse verifies that the unlicensed person is competent to perform the nursing task
6. The licensed nurse supervises performance of the delegated task in accordance with §[20:48:04.01.02](#).

AND

§ **20:48:04.01.02. Supervision.** The licensed nurse shall provide supervision of all nursing tasks delegated to unlicensed assistive personnel in accordance with the following conditions:

1. The licensed nurse determines the degree of supervision required after considering the following:
 - a. The stability of the client's condition
 - b. The competency of the unlicensed person to whom the nursing task is delegated

- c. The nature of the nursing task being delegated
 - d. The proximity and availability of the licensed nurse to the unlicensed person when the nursing task will be performed
2. The delegating nurse or another licensed nurse is readily available in person or by telecommunication
3. If the unlicensed person is providing care in the client's home, the time interval between supervisory visits and whether the visit is conducted in person or via telecommunication is determined by the licensed nurse in accordance with [20:48:04.01:01](#), and shall occur no less than once every 60 days to assure client safety.

AND

a licensed nurse is physically present in the dialysis unit:

1. Assemble any necessary supplies at the bedside
2. Rinse and prime dialyzer and attach and install all required tubing according to dialysis prescription and unit protocol; test and set monitors and alarms according to unit protocol
3. Obtain pre-dialysis vital signs, weight, and temperature and inform the RN of abnormal/unusual findings
4. Inspect access site and report condition to registered nurse
5. Perform venipuncture to initiate dialysis including the administration of local anesthetics by the intradermal, subcutaneous, or topical routes
6. Obtain blood samples and blood cultures from peripheral blood lines, access site, or graft
7. Administer loading and maintenance doses of heparin according to prescribed protocol; may perform clotting times and shall report results to the registered nurse
8. Measure and adjust blood flow rates according to prescribed protocol
9. Calculate, determine, and adjust fluid removal rates according to prescribed protocol
10. Monitor and record dialysis treatment parameters and make treatment adjustments including dialysis equipment settings, client positioning, and the administration of normal and hypertonic saline, as directed by the registered nurse; report all changes to the registered nurse
11. Monitor equipment for safe and proper functioning, respond to alarms, and make appropriate adjustments
12. Initiate cardiopulmonary resuscitation measures in the event of a cardiac and/or pulmonary emergency; respond to dialysis-related emergencies immediately seeking assistance from the registered nurse
13. Discontinue dialysis and establish hemostasis upon direction of the registered nurse
14. Inspect, clean, and dress access according to unit protocol, reporting any unusual finding or occurrence to the RN
15. Discard dialysis supplies and sanitize equipment.

[20:48:04.02:06](#). Nursing tasks that may not be delegated to dialysis technician. The following are nursing tasks that may not be delegated to a dialysis technician:

1. Initiation or termination of dialysis via a central catheter
2. Administration of intravenous medications, other than normal saline, hypertonic saline, or heparin, which may only be administered in the course of a routine hemodialysis treatment; the administration of medications by the oral, topical, or rectal route may be delegated only in accordance with §§ [20:48:04.01:09](#) to [20:48:04.01:13](#), inclusive
3. Administration of blood or blood products
4. Acceptance of physician orders

[20:48:04.02:07](#). Approval of training program required for delegated nursing dialysis tasks. Selected tasks of hemodialysis therapy may be delegated only to a dialysis technician who has successfully completed a training program approved by the Board pursuant to § [20:48:04.02:08](#). Approval of the training program must be renewed every two years.

[20:48:04.02:08](#). Standards for approval of training programs for dialysis technicians. An institution or individual desiring to offer a training program for dialysis technicians must submit an application for approval to the Board. The Board shall approve a training program upon proof that the program meets these requirements:

1. The training program is based on training curriculum outlined in § [20:48:04.02:09](#) and includes no less than 80 hours of classroom instruction and an additional 200 hours of clinical or laboratory instruction
2. The person teaching the training program is currently licensed as a registered nurse in South Dakota and has a minimum of two years of clinical nursing experience and a minimum of one year of experience in

hemodialysis; a person currently licensed as a practical nurse in South Dakota with a minimum of two years of clinical nursing experience and a minimum of one year experience in hemodialysis may assist in classroom instruction and serve as a preceptor in the clinical portion of the training program

3. The faculty to student ratio does not exceed 1:2 in the clinical setting; a 1:1 ratio is required for a skills performance evaluation
4. Written tests are developed for each unit in the curriculum, including a final test; a skills performance evaluation must be conducted
5. A score of 85 percent or greater is required on each unit test with an opportunity to retake each unit test one time without additional instruction; if the student fails a unit test a second time, additional instruction is required before further testing is allowed
6. A completion certificate is awarded to a student who has successfully completed the training program; the certificate must include the name and location of the institution, the length of the program, the date of completion, the full name of the student who completed the program, the signature of the individual in charge of the course, and the date the certificate was awarded
7. Records are maintained which include documentation of the following:
 - a. Each student enrolled in the program, including documentation of performance, and date and reason the student withdrew or the date the student failed or completed the program
 - b. Each individual teaching the program, including qualifications and nursing experience
 - c. The curriculum plan and revisions
 - d. Any test administered
 - e. A list of graduates of the program who were awarded certificates and date of the award

The institution/individual offering the training program shall submit an evaluation of the curriculum and program standards for compliance with this section to the Board every two years to maintain approval.

20:48:04:02.01. Outline of course for preparation of licensed practical nurses for kidney dialysis functions.

An institution or agency planning to offer a course to prepare LPNs to perform kidney dialysis functions must obtain approval from the Board prior to implementation of any part of the course. The institution or agency shall send a letter requesting approval of the course to the Board. The letter must be accompanied by a written factual report which describes the course according to the following outline:

- I. Philosophy and objectives.
 - A) Philosophy – an expression of the belief of the institution or agency about the education of the licensed practical nurse to perform kidney dialysis functions.
 - B) Objectives – the identification of the skills, knowledge, understandings, attitudes, and values necessary for the licensed practical nurse to perform kidney dialysis functions.
- II. Licensure or approval status of the cooperating institution or agency with appropriate local and state agencies or governing bodies.
- III. Instructional staff.
 - A) Director of the course.
 1. Qualifications.
 - a. Education.
 - b. Experience.
 2. Licensure status.
 - B) Financial support given to the director.
 - C) Instructors.
 1. Number.
 2. Qualifications.
 3. Licensure status.
 - D) Instructor/student ratio for the clinical setting.
- IV. Student policies.
 - A) Eligibility.
 1. Licensure requirement.
 2. Recommendations.
 - B) Retention in and completion of the course.
 1. Evaluation of student progress.
 2. Standards for awarding a certificate of achievement.
 - C) Dismissal.
 1. Policy.
 2. Procedures.
 - D) Availability of written policies to students.
 - E) Provisions for filing copies of certificates with Board.
- V. Curriculum.
 - A) Complete course content.
 - B) Provisions for classroom instruction.
 - C) Provisions for clinical experience.
 - D) Evaluation instruments.

The Board shall review the report according to criteria in § [20:48:04:02.02](#) and shall notify the sponsoring institution or agency of its approval or disapproval. If the course is not approved, the Board shall state the reasons for disapproval and make recommendations.

20:48:04:02.02. Criteria for approval of course for preparation of licensed practical nurses for kidney dialysis functions. Using information supplied in the written factual report required by § [20:48:04:02.01](#), the Board shall base its decision to grant approval of a course for preparation of LPNs for kidney dialysis functions on these criteria:

1. Cooperating institutions or agencies must be licensed or approved by local or state agencies or governing bodies
2. The director and instructional staff of the program must meet qualifications of faculty in a practical nurse program as defined in § [20:48:04:07:25](#) or registered nurse program as defined in § [20:48:04:07:26](#)
3. The director must have adequate financial support to provide for the full achievement of the stated objectives
4. The number and qualifications of the instructional staff must be such as to ensure the effective performance of their functions and the achievement of the objectives of the course. Instructors must be registered nurses currently licensed to practice as an RN in South Dakota
5. The instructor/student ratio in the clinical setting must not exceed 1:8
6. Student eligibility policies must require that each student be currently licensed as a practical nurse in South Dakota
7. Criteria for determining student progress must be developed and used by the instructional staff in the evaluation of the students at intervals throughout the course
8. Written policies and procedures on dismissal and student progress shall safeguard rights of both students and the institution or agency conducting the course and must be available to the students
9. Before issuing a certificate of achievement, the institution or agency conducting the course must require a student to complete the course with a score of at least 85 percent on a written examination and with a satisfactory practical demonstration of skills as recorded on a performance check list
10. The director of the course must forward copies of certificates of achievement to the Board
11. The course must be offered for academic credit or continuing education units at the discretion of the cooperating agency or institution providing the course
12. Competency evaluations must be completed for all students. The course must be followed by supervised clinical practice to demonstrate clinical competence. Verification of clinical competence must be provided by a signed affidavit from a licensed registered nurse
13. The report on curriculum must include a description of all course content, instructional activities, and clinical experiences which are planned and guided by instructional staff. The curriculum must be based on current nursing practice and must reflect the philosophy and objectives of the course
14. The course content for the topic of kidney dialysis must be organized as follows:
 - a. Anatomy and physiology
 - b. Assessment
 - c. Problem identification
 - d. Goals of care
 - e. Purposes and procedures
 - f. Complications
 - g. Evaluation and documentation
15. Evaluation procedures for the course must include a final written examination and a demonstration of clinical skills. The evaluation of the demonstration of skills must be recorded on a performance check list. Copies of the evaluation instruments must be included with the report.

[20:48:04.02:09](#). **Dialysis technician training curriculum.** The training program for dialysis technicians must include:

1. General information relevant to the performance of selected hemodialysis tasks including:
 - a. Governmental regulations related to end stage renal disease, nursing practice, and delegation
 - b. The role of the dialysis technician in hemodialysis
 - c. Ethical issues
 - d. Client rights and responsibilities
 - e. Terminology, abbreviations, and symbols
 - f. Basic client care skills including the collection of vital signs, weight, intake, and output
 - g. Universal precautions and aseptic technique
 - h. Quality assurance and continuous quality improvement
 - i. Documentation
2. Renal anatomy and physiology
3. End stage renal disease and treatments
4. Principles of hemodialysis
5. Hemodialysis procedures
6. Access procedures
7. Laboratory procedures
8. Administration of lidocaine, heparin, and saline
9. Identification of and response to hemodialysis-related emergencies
10. Discontinuing hemodialysis
11. Reprocessing and reuse
12. Clinical or laboratory instruction for the purpose of demonstration of selected tasks of hemodialysis and evaluation of individual competence

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Approval status must be renewed every two years. If using a curriculum that has current Board approval, you need not include documents listed in items I and II; proceed with submission of items III, IV, and V.

Utilizing the above requirements, please submit the completed application and the following documents:

- I. [Description of Program Length and Distribution of Hours](#)

A variety of teaching methods may be used in fulfilling classroom instruction requirements, such as independent study, video instruction, etc
- II. [Course Syllabus, which includes:](#)

A) course overview	E) methods of performance evaluation (please provide examples)
B) course objectives	F) teaching methodologies
C) content outline	G) required textbooks or other resources
D) skills training	
- III. [Description of Record Keeping](#)
- IV. [Documentation of Faculty Qualifications](#) (a resume or vitae)
- V. [Documentation of Student:Faculty ratio](#)

Questions? Please contact [Nancy Bohr](#), SD Board of Nursing Program Specialist