



Kidney Q&A

0-3 months

Life Options Rehabilitation Program

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www.lifeoptions.org

Q: What does the technician do for me?

A: There are two or three types of technicians (techs) in a hemodialysis center:

1. In most states, a **patient care tech** will set up your machine, put in your needles, check on you during your treatment, and take you off when the treatment is over.
2. An **equipment tech** keeps the dialysis machines and water system working properly.
3. A **reprocessing tech** may clean dialyzers, test them, store them, and make sure they are ready for you to use again.

Your dialysis techs may have gone to a vocational program or may have had on-the-job training to learn how to care for you. Techs are supervised by nurses. In a few states, techs must take a test to be certified.

What I can do to work best with my techs:

- Ask my tech to show me how my dialysis machine works.
- Learn about my access and where my needles should go at each treatment.

- Ask my tech to teach me how to put in my own needles
- Write down my machine settings in a notebook so I know what they are.
- Ask my tech to face my machine toward me during my treatment, so I can see it.
- Learn how my fluid goal is set and when it needs to be adjusted.
- Be respectful, but speak up if I see mistakes.
- Say “please” when I ask for something, and thank my technician for my care.
- Visit module 3 of Kidney School™: *Working with Your Healthcare Team* at www.kidneyschool.org to learn more.