
**Abstract**

In 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) enacted a requirement for the mandatory certification of non-licensed hemodialysis patient care technicians (PCTs) effective in 2010. This study examined the perceived status of PCT training and the impact of the mandatory certification on patient care. Results indicated that there are differences between the current and ideal elements of PCT training programs; the use of electronic education materials and online education courses and programs is limited; and infection control practices, vascular access care, and patient safety are the most needed areas for future PCT education. Respondents were mixed in their perceptions of the impact certification has had on patient care.