



This position statement is being offered to the dialysis community and state survey staff to clarify the specific ESRD clinic staff to patient ratios required during dialysis treatment, and the role of the charge nurse when more than seven patients are being dialyzed in a facility. Please note that all definitions contained herein are taken directly from 25 TAC 117.2, and we retained their original numbering:

(10) Charge nurse--A registered nurse practicing nursing in accordance with applicable provisions of law who is responsible for making daily staff assignments based on patient needs, providing immediate supervision of patient care, monitoring patients for changes in condition, and communicating with the physician, dietician, and social worker regarding patient needs.

(23) Dialysis technician--An individual who provides hands on dialysis care to specifically assigned patients during their dialysis treatment under the direct supervision of a registered nurse. If unlicensed, this individual may also be known as a patient care technician.

(25) Direct care staff--Staff who provide hands on dialysis care to specifically assigned patients during their dialysis treatment (e.g., registered nurse, licensed vocational nurse, patient care technician).

(45) Licensed nurse--A registered nurse or licensed vocational nurse.

(46) Licensed vocational nurse (LVN)--A person who is currently licensed under the Nursing Practice Act by the Texas Board of Nursing as a licensed vocational nurse, or who holds a valid vocational nursing license with multi-state licensure privilege from another compact state, and who may provide dialysis treatment after meeting the competency requirements specified for dialysis technicians.

(Please see table for additional clarification of the following regulations.)

(6) Sufficient direct care staff, as defined in §117.2(25) of this title (relating to Definitions), shall be on site to meet the needs of the patients, and at least one licensed nurse shall be available on site for every twelve patients or portion thereof.

- (A) During treatment of seven or fewer patients, direct care staff shall consist of one registered nurse and one direct care staff as demonstrated in Table 1 of §117.106 of this title (relating to Tables).
- (B) During treatment of eight but not more than twelve patients, the registered nurse functioning as **charge nurse shall not be assigned as direct care staff** as demonstrated in Table 1 of §117.106 of this title.

Number of patients receiving treatment	RN Charge Nurse Note: this RN is not to be assigned any direct patient care	RN	RN or LVN	Direct Care Staff (RN, LVN, PCT)	Total Clinical Staff (including Charge Nurse)
1 – 7	0	1	0	1	2
8	1	1	0	2	4
9	1	1	0	3	5
10	1	1	0	3	5
11	1	1	0	3	5
12	1	1	0	3	5
13	1	1	1	4	7
14	1	1	1	4	7
15	1	1	1	4	7

16	1	1	1	4	7
17	1	1	1	5	8
18	1	1	1	5	8
19	1	1	1	5	8
20	1	1	1	5	8
21	1	1	1	6	9
22	1	1	1	6	9
23	1	1	1	6	9
24	1	1	1	6	9
25	1	1	2	7	11
26	1	1	2	7	11
27	1	1	2	7	11
28	1	1	2	7	11
29	1	1	2	8	12
30	1	1	2	8	12
31	1	1	2	8	12
32	1	1	2	8	12
33	1	1	2	9	13
34	1	1	2	9	13
35	1	1	2	9	13
36	1	1	2	9	13
37	1	1	3	10	15
Etc.					

If there any further questions in this regard, please contact your zone office manager, or Wanda Wilson, RN at 512-834-6700, ext. 2685 or wanda.wilson@dshs.texas.gov

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