EVERY EXAM PREP · CHEAT SHEET

# CCHT Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **150**<br>Questions | **3h**<br>Time limit | **Standard score of 95**<br>Passing score |
| **$225**<br>Exam fee | **Nephrology Nursing Cert…**<br>Governing body | |

Every figure on this sheet comes from NNCC's pages and PDFs or from the federal rules and CMS guidance NNCC names as the exam's references, read on November 15, 2026. It is a revision aid, not NNCC material.

## The exam in six lines

- 150 questions, three hours (about 25 unscored trial items).
- Passing standard score 95, which NNCC says is about 74% correct.
- Fee $225, including a $50 non-refundable processing fee.
- Permit active 90 days; one extension for $125; reschedule more than 48 hours ahead.
- No attempt limit; new application and full fee for a retake; no published waiting period.
- Credential lasts three years; 3,000 work hours to renew.

## Blueprint weights

| Area | Share | Items of 150 |
|---|---|---|
| Clinical | 48-52% | 71-78 |
| Technical | 21-25% | 32-38 |
| Environment | 13-17% | 19-25 |
| Role Responsibilities | 10-14% | 15-20 |

By how the question is asked: Application 63-67%, Comprehension 23-28%, Knowledge 8-13%.

## Numbers to know

| What | Value | Source |
|---|---|---|
| Certify a new technician | Within 18 months of hire | 42 CFR 494.140(e)(4) |
| Hand rub strength | 60-90% alcohol; soap and water if soiled | CMS guidance, infection control |
| Hand washing | Rub vigorously for 15 seconds | CMS guidance, infection control |
| Bleach for visible blood | 1:100, 300-600 mg/L free chlorine | CMS guidance, infection control |
| Free chlorine limit | 0.5 mg/L at the first carbon tank | 42 CFR 494.40(b) |
| Chloramine limit | 0.1 mg/L at the first carbon tank | 42 CFR 494.40(b) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chlorine testing | Before day starts and before each shift (about every 4 hours if no shifts) | CMS guidance, water |
| Product water bacteria | Under 200 CFU/mL; action level 50 | AAMI via CMS guidance |
| Product water endotoxin | Under 2 EU/mL; action level 1 | AAMI via CMS guidance |
| Preconfigured systems | Bacteria and endotoxin tests at least quarterly | 42 CFR 494.40(e) |
| Hepatitis B vaccine response | Anti-HBs at least 10 mIU/mL | CMS guidance, infection control |
| Unknown hepatitis B status at emergency admission | Known within 7 days | CMS guidance, infection control |
| Hepatitis B staff vaccine records | 30 years after employment ends | CMS guidance, infection control |
| Kt/V, hemodialysis | At least 1.2; assessed monthly | 42 CFR 494.80, 494.90 |
| Monthly measures | Albumin, weight, hemoglobin or hematocrit | 42 CFR 494.90 |
| Initial assessment and plan | Latter of 30 days or 13 sessions | 42 CFR 494.80, 494.90 |
| Follow-up assessment | Within 3 months | 42 CFR 494.80(b) |
| Emergency plan review | At least every 2 years | 42 CFR 494.62 |
| Emergency response time | Under 4 minutes | CMS guidance, emergency preparedness |
| Patient record retention | 6 years | 42 CFR 494.170 |
| Record sent after a transfer | Within 1 working day | 42 CFR 494.170 |
| Involuntary discharge notice | 30 days written | 42 CFR 494.70(b) |

## Traps

- Gloves do not replace hand hygiene, and a gloved hand on a keyboard still needs it before the patient.
- A sleeveless apron is not enough when blood might spurt.
- A camera is not "in view of staff".
- Conductivity can look fine while pH is dangerously low.
- A dialyzer is reused only for the same patient, and never for a hepatitis B positive patient.
- Shadowing is not hands-on experience.
- 74% is not a number of questions: some of the 150 are unscored.

## Checklist before exam day

- Permit in hand; schedule more than 48 hours ahead of any change.
- Photo ID that is government-issued, current and permanent, with the permit name.
- Nothing to bring in: notes and books are not allowed, and no calculator is needed.
- Answer every question; there is no penalty for guessing.

### Official sources

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services — ESRD Program Interpretive Guidance, Version 1.1: https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/guidanceforlawsandregulations/downloads/esrdpgmg

uidance.pdf
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services — 42 CFR Part 494 — Conditions for Coverage for End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-G/part-494
- Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) — NNCC Certification Examination Application Booklet (revised 7/2026): https://www.nncc-exam.org/sites/default/files/applications/cchtApplication.pdf

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/exams/nncc-ccht/practice-test