Dialysis Technicians comprise a major portion of the workforce in dialysis facilities. They are essential members of the interdisciplinary team who interact closely with patients and other healthcare providers. This program is designed for dialysis technicians and other healthcare providers who participate in providing care for patients on dialysis therapy.

Session 1
Moderators – Joanna Neumann, BS, RN and Susan Ronning, BSN, RN
8:00 Myth Busters: Facts About Dialysis-related Issues and how to answer difficult questions factually when confronted with one

Start your day with this interactive activity that will cover questions and topics including:

- PD-related topics, e.g. infections, complications trouble shooting and transfer to HD
- Does PD catheter restrict sexuality?
- Home Dialysis
  - Can a non-adherent patient do home dialysis?
  - Home dialysis patients don’t have dietary restrictions and other facts about the renal diet
  - Home HD: too complicated for the lay person?
  - Can I have pets?
  - How can I store supplies without dialysis taking over my home?
- How can I keep dialysis from taking over my life?
8:45 Fostering a Safe Environment for Staff and Patients: Addressing Cultural Diversity and Person-Centered Care Design
9:30 Food Talk: How to Engage your Patients in a Conversation about the Renal Diet
9:50 Discussion
10:00 Break and Exhibits

Session 2
10:45 Life Plan for the Patient with End Stage Kidney Disease: What Do They Want?
11:15 Panel Discussion: A Day in the Life of Patient with Chronic Kidney Failure
  Moderator: Beth Witten
  A Successful Kidney Transplant Recipient
  A Patient on PD
  A Patient on Home Hemodialysis

Do you know if your patients have been presented with all their treatment options after diagnosis with chronic kidney disease? Were their values sought and considered? Have they had the opportunity to ask questions about their life plan?
This session will provide an overview of the different treatment options available to the patient with end-stage kidney disease. The presentation will help you understand the difficult decisions patients face when choosing a life plan that might include conservative management, in-center hemodialysis, home dialysis (PD or Home HD), Kidney Transplantation or a combination of these treatments over time.

Panel members are patients who lived through these choices and will give you their perspectives on how it is like to live with kidney disease on different treatment modalities.

12:15 Lunch
1:00 Exhibits and Posters

Visit the poster presentations on your own or join one of the nursing faculty guided tours.

Session 3 Dialysis Technician Forum
2:00 What to Know about Water Testing
2:30 Laboratory Testing in CKD Patients: Sampling Issues and Interpretation of Results

This presentation will cover common laboratory tests for dialysis patients and explain the proper technique of drawing blood and explain reasons behind doing certain procedures such as:
- turning down ultrafiltration rate,
- allowing blood to sit before processing it,
- spin technique, etc.

You will hear what results mean and the ramifications of improper sampling technique and how it will affect patients and the dialysis facility.

3:00 Patient Evaluation and Observation: What should I Report to the Nurse? –

This session will discuss a variety of issues and situations in the dialysis workplace that require immediate action and decision-making to prevent more serious complications to occur. Patient Falls, ER Visits, Machine pressures, etc.

3:30 Discussion
3:40 Break

Session 4
3:50 A Stunning Fact You Should Know about Volume Management and How to Explain to Patients about Limits in Fluid Removal
4:30 Vascular Access: What Dialysis Technicians Need to Know and Do to Prolong the Life of a Vascular Access
- Pre and post evaluation
- Cannulation
- Communication
- Best Practices

5:15 Recognizing Professional Boundaries in your Clinical Practice: HIPAA, Social Media
5:45 Discussion
6:00 Adjourn