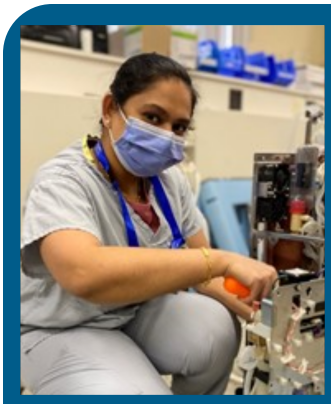
Dialysis Technology

Professional Practice Leader (Charlton, King, Offsite):
DENIS RABBAT

Number of Members of Discipline:

SITE	FTE	PTE	POSITION
Charlton	19	20	Clinical Nephrology Technologist Non-Registered Nephrology Technician Data Traffic Controller (DTC) Senior Nephrology Technologist Quality Coordinator ADS-11 (Administrative Assistant)
King	14	9	Clinical Nephrology Technologist Non-Registered Nephrology Technician Senior Nephrology Technologist
Home Hemodialysis	2	1	Clinical Nephrology Technologist
OFFSITE:			
Ohsweken	1	1	Clinical Nephrology Technologist Non-Registered Nephrology Technician
Brantford	4	0	Clinical Nephrology Technologist Non-Registered Nephrology Technician



Scope of Practice

The Clinical Nephrology Technologist maintains and services dialysis equipment, provides technical support to patients, nursing, and medical students; Initiates, monitors, and discontinues dialysis treatments, in collaboration with RNs within a shared care model; Services and maintains Dialysis equipment in patients' homes; Functions as a renal perfusionist and coordinator for kidney transplants; and is responsible for ministry reporting of all program activities.

The Non-Registered Technician is responsible for the setup and priming of hemodialysis treatments, in-center and in acute settings. Ensures the accuracy of data capture for ministry reporting of all program activities on a monthly basis; and through the DTC role, is responsible for tracking patient movement throughout their journey within the program.

Major Achievements

CARING

Clinical Practice:

- The Practice Lead of Dialysis Technology also chairs the Renal Patient and Family Advisory Committee.
- The Clinical Technologist works in a collaborative model of care with our nursing colleagues, under delegation from nursing.
- One of our own, Kelly Galvin, was the recipient of the Interprofessional Clinical Practice Award for her outstanding contributions at our Six Nations Dialysis Satellite Unit.

Matthew D'Angelo using the new Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) device.

LEARNING

Education:

Clinical Education

- Participation in the Kidney Fair for first year medical students, explaining various functions of the dialysis machine and Dialysis Technology.
- St. John Henry Newman High School students interdisciplinary job shadowing at King Campus.

Formal Teaching

- 3rd year Biomedical Engineering Technology Students from Durham College in Whitby do 8-week placements at St-Joe's.
- Assist with lab classes at Durham College, explaining machine calibrations and procedures.

Internal Education

- Dialysis machine training sessions for Registered Nurses and Technologists hired into the dialysis program, during Hemodialysis Orientation Week.

Research

- Dialysis Technicians and Technologists were instrumental in operationalizing the DialMag study. This 5-year study looks at the effects of magnesium in dialysate with respect to cramping. Our program was randomized to two different concentrations at the four sites.

Richard Cowin teaching new staff during Hemodialysis Orientation Week

BUILDING

Professional Practice Development:

- Dialysis Technologists have taken the Crucial Conversations and Emerging Leaders courses.
- Indigenous Safety Training courses provide Dialysis Technologists with insight in Trauma-informed care. This is essential as we serve a large Indigenous population.

LEADING

- With our program's transition from a Renal Electronic Medical Record, Nephrology Information System (NIS), to Dovetale, Technologists were instrumental in the reporting transition as well. Where previously all ministry reports were pulled from NIS, we had to build these same reports with Digital Solutions, to pull the same data from the Dovetale system.
- Similar to above, we also transitioned our NISTools application, which is used for tient scheduling, staff assignments, and acute hemodialysis treatment tracking to Dovetale. It is now Dovetale Tools.

LEADING continued…

External Activities:

Presentations

- We presented our Collaborative model of Care model at the Renal Administrative Leaders Network of Ontario (RALNO) conference as an alternative staffing solution for other programs struggling with Nurse recruitment, specifically.
- We presented our Collaborative Model of Care model at the Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists conference that occurred in Hamilton in October 2022.

Committees

- Member of the Durham College Program Advisory Committee in the Biomedical Engineering Technology program that provides essential industry-related feedback that informs decision-making and actions by the College and the Board of Governors.
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Major Initiatives for 2023:

CARING

- Commissioning of 20 new Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) devices that will bring our fleet up to one per staff assignment at all 4 Dialysis sites. The use of POCUS devices for cannulation of Fistula/Grafts has been shown to improve Vascular Access patency and is the gold standard in Hemodialysis.. This was made possible by the St-Joe's Foundation annual fundraising gala!
- Commissioning 49 new Dialysis machines for our Home Patient population.
- Expansion of services at our 6-Nations Satellite Dialysis unit, providing care closer to home for the biggest growth area in our program.

LEARNING

- Revamping the Technologist Training Program. This 3-month program includes Water Treatment, Renal anatomy/physiology, Infection Prevention and Control in the Hemodialysis setting, Dialyzer Technology, Machine Technology.

BUILDING

- Continue to foster a culture of safety within the team, with Equity, Diversity, Inclusion discussions at monthly practice councils.

LEADING

- Meeting with University Health Network who are inquiring about our transition to Dovetale (Epic) and specifically our Ministry report build.
- Replacing the King Campus Reverse Osmosis system through the RFP process.