

## **How the CCHT Examination is Developed**

The content of the CCHT examination is based on a Job Analysis survey that identifies key tasks/activities performed by entry-level hemodialysis technicians. A national Task Force is brought together to plan the survey content. The Task Force includes technicians, as well as clinical educators and clinical managers of technicians. Following data collection, the Task Force reviews the results and makes recommendations for the CCHT test specifications (blueprint). A Job Analysis is performed every five years to be sure the test reflects current practice of entry-level hemodialysis technicians.

NNCC's Clinical/Technical Board oversees CCHT test development, and the CCHT Test Committee develops the actual test questions. Item writers, who are certified technicians from a variety of geographic and practice settings, write test questions to meet the CCHT blueprint requirements. Each question on the test can be linked directly to the tasks/activities in the Job Analysis. The Test Committee meets twice a year to review, evaluate, and write test questions to ensure that test content remains up-to-date and accurate. All questions are validated using the *Core Curriculum for the Dialysis Technician* and other references.

The test consists of 150 questions that match the test blueprint. About 25 of the questions are new "pilot" questions and are not scored. Pilot testing of new questions allows for the evaluation of questions before they become "real" or scored questions.

The passing score is determined by a panel of technicians who serve as subject matter experts (SMEs). This group performs a criterion-referenced standard setting procedure in which each test question is reviewed to determine its difficulty. The passing score is based on the SME panel's estimation of the level required to identify individuals with an acceptable level of knowledge and skill. Therefore, each candidate's test score is measured against a predetermined standard, not against the performance of other test takers.