

Let's build a Strong NANT Dialysis Community, Virtually

Hello, My name is Clarica Douglas- Ajayi, 2020 NANT president and now 2022-2023 Chapter Support Liaison.

I think I speak for many of us when I say, I miss our in-person meetings with our dialysis technician peers. We had such a great time connecting at our educational chapter meetings. With COVID-19 cases on the rise, meeting in person with your chapter may still be scary and challenging. But that doesn't mean we still can't engage with one another!

As the NANT 2022-2023 Chapter Liaison, it's my duty to help improve our NANT Chapter engagement. Our main goals as chapter leaders are to cultivate and grow our local dialysis technician communities and continue to educate our members. Are you interested in becoming a chapter leader? Here is our plan to help your chapter thrive virtually!

Create, Plan, Execute, Now Educate!

Create a topic for your discussion: Create a list of topics that you think would benefit technicians. What are some of the topics Technicians would be interested in during this time? Are there topics that may have been discussed before, but need to be revisited? What do we need to know for the future to help us be better dialysis technicians?

Plan your speaker for your discussion: Who would be the best person to speak on that topic? Do you know an MD, Social Worker, Dietician, or another dialysis technician? If we are talking to the patients on a regular basis about their plan of care, it would be great to share in a virtual forum. How can you educate, engage, and empower your patients?

Execute: Once you have found your speakers, you're ready to set a time and date for your meeting. The invitations to attendees should be sent at least 30 days prior to the event. This allows the attendees plenty of time to add the event to their schedule (Pro Tip: send weekly reminders out leading up to the event to gain even higher attendance.) Encourage technicians to invite their peers to attend and support your event.

Once you have your date, time, topic, and speakers planned, the next step is to complete your contact hour application through NANT. To start this process, visit: <http://dialysistech.net/about-nant/contact-hours> to download the contact hour application. Once the application is completed, you will need to email the form to NANT@meinet.com. When the application is received, the NANT staff will review it for approval within 10 business days. Once approved, you will be responsible for keeping an attendance record of the attendees who attended the meeting in order to supply the contact hour(s).

If you need assistance, please contact me or the NANT office via phone or email.

Pro Tip: Reach out to sponsors to help make your meeting even better! Sponsors offer incentives and free swag items to give to your attendees. Even if your event is virtual, you can mail out

thank you items or prizes. You can also charge a small fee for attendance to support a small prize for a raffle or other game.

Educate your speakers on what to expect: The key to having a successful meeting is preparation. While you can't plan for everything, you can set your speakers up for success by scheduling a meeting with them in the upcoming week of the meeting. During the rehearsal, check with your speaker to see if they have any slides/meeting materials they want to show or distribute during the meeting. Check that their sound and video are clear, and they can be seen and heard by the attendees during the meeting.

NANT has developed a brochure to present at the beginning of your meeting which highlights important educational details and ways to promote NANT.

I want to encourage all the technicians to get out of their comfort zone and develop a NANT chapter meeting. Everyone needs contact hours, and what better way to earn them than by engaging with other technicians in your local communities.

If you need any assistance you can contact me, Clarica Douglas-Ajayi, via email at clarica.douglas-ajayi@freseniusmedicalcare.com.

Sincerely,



Clarica Douglas-Ajayi