

Resource**Work Voices #4****Jose Puzon – Dialysis Technician**

It is helpful to view one segment at a time

Context

Jose Puzon is from the Philippines and decided to train as a dialysis technician, deeply moved by the death of his grandmother from kidney failure and inspired by his cousin who was working in the field. He wanted to help others like his grandmother, and after the training he describes in this interview, he is now working at San Francisco General Hospital.

Jose describes how important it is to take care of and support the patient, who can be in hospital for three hours at a time, often three times a week. As he says, “So working in dialysis is like you are working on your family members or working on someone close to your heart...”

As a dialysis technician, he works under the direction of nurses and physicians, operating machines that take over the function of the kidneys which are not removing toxins properly from a patient's blood and vascular system. The machine cleans the blood and returns the blood to the body.

Jose describes the excellent opportunities for employment and career advancement for dialysis technicians - as is the case in other categories in the medical technician and nursing assistant fields.

Preview activities/Introductory questions

Warm up questions

What kinds of health practitioners have you visited?

What kinds of machines have you seen in a hospital or doctor's office?

What is a technician?

Vocabulary

End stage, technical, inspired, rewarding, complications, troubleshoot, trauma, concentrate, balance, retention, toxin, infection, mimic, fluid, hypertension.

Focus questions

- What is dialysis?
- Who receives it?
- What does the kidney do?
- What are the causes of kidney disease?

- What are Jose's duties?
- What are the prerequisites needed for the training program?
- What time commitment is required – how long does the training take?
- Does Jose work by himself or as part of a team?

Discuss responses.

Post viewing

Research

a Training courses

- Find training programs for a dialysis technician in your area.
- Find all the information you would need about each program in order to decide to apply for it.

b Job opportunities

- Look for jobs as a dialysis technician in your area.
- Investigate the range of positions.
- Explore the pay rates at the different levels.

Summarize findings for a and b in two paragraphs to share with the class

Reflection

- Do you prefer to work on your own or as part of a team?
- Do you prefer to work with people or machines – or both
- What kind of personal qualities would work well for this job? List the qualities you would need.
- What are the risks and challenges of working in this field?

Write a short reflection paragraph in response to these questions

Contact assignment

Interview someone who is working as a dialysis technician **OR** someone who works in the health field in a job that interests you. Record the interview if possible.

Post it to your class blog – if you have one.

Further resources

- **Health Education Resources for ESL Educators** www.kqed.org/healtheducation
- [Health Care Training at City College of San Francisco](http://www.kqed.org/healtheducation)
- http://www.ehow.com/how_4514319_become-dialysis-technician-san-francisco.html