

15 Ways to Celebrate National Dialysis Technician Recognition Week

October 12–16, 2026

National Dialysis Technician Recognition Week (NDTRW) is a time to celebrate the technicians who help keep dialysis care safe, efficient, compassionate, and patient-centered.

From preparing machines and maintaining equipment to supporting patients and working alongside the clinical team, dialysis technicians make a difference every day.

And celebrating your technicians doesn't have to be expensive—or complicated.

Whether you're an **employer, supervisor, patient, or fellow technician**, there are plenty of ways to show your appreciation. We've put together 15 ideas ranging from quick, no-cost gestures to celebrations that can be done for **\$150 or less per unit**.

The most important part? Make sure your technicians know their work is seen, valued, and appreciated.

No Cost / Very Low Cost

1. Create a Technician Appreciation Wall

Who: Everyone

Effort: ★ Easy | **Cost:** \$0–\$15

Turn a break room wall, bulletin board, or other appropriate space into a place for appreciation.

Invite patients, coworkers, nurses, providers, and supervisors to answer:

“Our dialysis technicians make a difference because...”

Leave the board up throughout the week and watch the messages grow.

2. Give a Specific Shout-Out

Who: Supervisors, coworkers, patients

Effort: ★ Easy | **Cost:** \$0

Take a few minutes during huddle or a staff meeting to recognize your technicians.

Instead of simply saying “Thank you for all you do,” get specific:

“Thank you for always taking the time to make sure our patients are comfortable.”

“Thank you for being the person everyone can count on when the unit gets busy.”

Specific recognition tells people that their individual contributions are noticed.

3. Let Patients “Thank a Tech”

Who: Patients

Effort: ★ Easy | **Cost:** \$5–\$20

Give patients an opportunity to write a short note or message of appreciation to a technician who has made a difference in their dialysis experience.

A simple card, collection box, or designated display can turn patient gratitude into one of the most meaningful parts of the week.

Remember to follow your facility's privacy policies when displaying patient messages.

4. Spotlight a Technician Every Day

Who: Supervisors, employers

Effort: ★ Easy | **Cost:** \$0

Make every day of NDTRW an opportunity to celebrate someone.

Highlight a different technician each day with a fun fact, accomplishment, quote, years of service, or a few words about why their coworkers appreciate them.

Five days. Five opportunities to say, “We see you.”

5. Start a “Thank a Tech” Challenge

Who: Technicians

Effort: ★ Easy | **Cost:** \$0

Challenge every technician to thank another technician during NDTRW.

It could be for helping during a difficult shift, teaching a new skill, making a patient smile, or simply being a dependable teammate.

Technicians know what this job takes. Who better to recognize the people doing it alongside them?

Low Cost / Moderate Effort

6. Treat the Team to Breakfast, Lunch, or Snacks

Who: Employers, supervisors

Effort: ★★ Moderate | **Cost:** \$50–\$150

You don't need an elaborate catered meal to make technicians feel appreciated.

Try:

- Breakfast sandwiches and coffee
- Bagels and fruit
- Pizza or sandwiches
- A snack bar
- Donuts or treats from a local bakery

If your unit operates multiple shifts, make sure **everyone gets included**.

7. Build a Technician Appreciation Care Package

Who: Employers, supervisors

Effort: ★★ Moderate | **Cost:** \$10–\$15/person

Put together a small bag of practical and fun items for each technician.

Ideas include:

- Favorite snacks
- Coffee or tea
- Small gift cards
- Pens or notebooks
- Hand lotion or lip balm
- Stress-relief items
- A handwritten thank-you note

For a 10-person unit, **\$100–\$150 can go a long way**.

8. Give Technicians a Choice

Who: Employers, supervisors

Effort: ★★ Moderate | **Cost:** \$0–\$150

Don't guess what your technicians want—ask them!

Give the team a few options and let them vote:

Breakfast or lunch?

Snacks or gift cards?

Team activity or individual gifts?

Recognition is much more meaningful when people have a say in how they're celebrated.

9. Give the Break Room a Mini Makeover

Who: Employers, supervisors

Effort: ★★ Moderate | **Cost:** \$25–\$150

Ask technicians what one small improvement would make their break space better.

Maybe it's:

- Better coffee
- New mugs
- A plant or two
- More comfortable seating
- A charging station
- A small game or puzzle
- Better snacks
- A fresh coat of paint

It doesn't have to be a renovation. **Sometimes a small improvement makes a big difference.**

10. Have Some Fun with Technician Superlatives

Who: Coworkers, supervisors

Effort: ★★ Moderate | **Cost:** \$0–\$25

Create fun, positive awards that celebrate the personalities and strengths that make your team special.

Try:

- 🏆 **Teamwork MVP**
- 💙 **Patient Comfort Champion**
- 🔧 **Problem-Solving Pro**
- ★ **Always Ready to Help Award**
- 😌 **Calm Under Pressure Award**
- 🧠 **Machine Whisperer**
- 👏 **Behind-the-Scenes Hero**
- ☀️ **Positive Energy Award**

Keep the awards inclusive, sincere, and focused on celebrating the team.

☀️ **Recognition That Goes Beyond the Week**

11. Share a Technician Success Story

Who: Supervisors, coworkers, patients

Effort: ★ Easy | **Cost:** \$0

Every unit has stories worth telling.

Maybe a technician helped a nervous patient feel comfortable. Maybe they caught a problem before it became serious. Maybe they trained a new coworker or stepped up when the unit needed them.

Tell those stories.

Share them in your internal newsletter, staff communication, bulletin board, website, or social media—with appropriate permission and privacy considerations.

12. Recognize Years of Service

Who: Employers, supervisors

Effort: ★ Easy | **Cost:** \$0–\$25

Celebrate the technicians who have dedicated years of their careers to dialysis.

Recognize milestones, whether someone has been in the field for six months or 30 years.

Experience matters. Commitment matters. And both deserve to be celebrated.

13. Give the Gift of Time

Who: Employers, supervisors

Effort: ★★★ Higher | **Cost:** Varies

If your staffing and facility policies allow, consider giving technicians something money can't buy:

- An extended break
- An early release
- Flexible scheduling
- A preferred shift
- Protected time for education or professional development

Even a small amount of flexibility can communicate:

“We appreciate your time—and we value you as a person, not just an employee.”

14. Make One Improvement Your Technicians Have Been Asking For

Who: Employers, supervisors

Effort: ★★ ★ Moderate | **Cost:** \$0–\$150+

Ask:

“What's one thing we could change that would make your workday better?”

Then choose one realistic improvement and make it happen.

Maybe it's a needed supply, a better communication process, an equipment issue, an update to the break room, or something else your technicians have been asking for.

The best recognition isn't always a gift. Sometimes it's showing your technicians that when they speak, someone listens.

15. Celebrate All Week—and Share It!

Who: Everyone

Effort: ★★ ★ Moderate | **Cost:** \$0–\$25

Don't let NDTRW become a single pizza lunch and a “thanks, guys” email.

Make the entire week about your technicians.

Take photos of your celebrations, share technician appreciation messages, recognize your team, and encourage other units to join in.

With appropriate permission, share your NDTRW celebrations on your organization's social media or internal communications and use:

#NDTRW2026 #NANT

And remember: **you don't need a big budget to make a big impression.**

Make NDTRW Count

A meaningful celebration doesn't have to cost hundreds of dollars or require weeks of planning.

A unit with 10 technicians can put together an entire week of appreciation for **\$150 or less** by combining simple recognition with one or two small treats.

Most importantly, don't leave recognition to one person.

Employers can provide support.

Supervisors can provide leadership.

Patients can provide gratitude.

Coworkers can provide encouragement.

And technicians can celebrate each other.

This NDTRW, take a moment to recognize the people who help make dialysis care possible every day.

Celebrate your technicians. Thank a tech. Do something in your unit. Make it meaningful.

Share how your unit is celebrating NDTRW 2026 with NANT!