

Appendix 2: Definitions used to determine presence of comorbidities among elderly patients initiating dialysis

Comorbidity	Definition
Myocardial infarction	Patient has confirmed myocardial infarction on the basis of electrocardiogram, cardiac enzyme levels, echocardiogram, or thallium scans before beginning renal replacement therapy
Previous coronary artery bypass graft	Patient has had coronary artery bypass graft surgery before beginning renal replacement therapy
Diabetes	Patient has received diagnosis of diabetes mellitus before beginning renal replacement therapy
Cerebrovascular disease	Patient has had a cerebrovascular event (e.g., transient cerebral ischemic attack, cerebral infarct, cerebral hemorrhage, stroke, cerebrovascular accident) before beginning renal replacement therapy
Peripheral vascular disease	Patient has been described as having intermittent claudication at rest or during exercise, or has had aortofemoral bypass surgery, or amputation (e.g., of toes, lower legs) before beginning renal replacement therapy
Vascular disease	Patient has received diagnosis of either cerebrovascular disease or peripheral vascular disease, or both, as defined above
Neoplasia	Patient has received a diagnosis of a malignant disease before beginning renal replacement therapy. The site of the primary malignant disease is coded separately. All malignant diseases were considered equal