

Table S1: Characteristics of Patients Initiating Dialysis in Matched Darbepoetin Alfa and Epoetin Alfa Facilities who had Medicare Fee-For-Service Coverage

Variable (% missing)	All Patients		Darbepoetin Alfa		Epoetin Alfa		SD
	N or Median	% or IQR	N or Median	% or IQR	N or Median	% or IQR	
	9455	(100.0)	4542	(48.0)	4913	(52.0)	
Age, years	65	(55-77)	66	(56-77)	65	(55-76)	6.7
Female sex	4259	(45.0)	2031	(44.7)	2228	(45.3)	-1.3
Race (<0.1%)							
White	6395	(67.6)	3156	(69.5)	3239	(65.9)	7.6
Black	2508	(26.5)	1151	(25.3)	1357	(27.6)	-5.2
Asian	309	(3.3)	108	(2.4)	201	(4.1)	-9.7
Other	239	(2.5)	126	(2.8)	113	(2.3)	3.0
Hispanic ethnicity (0.4%)	1029	(10.9)	356	(7.8)	673	(13.7)	-19.1
Medicaid eligibility	2854	(30.2)	1362	(30.0)	1492	(30.4)	-0.9
Received EPO prior to ESRD	2834	(30.0)	1374	(30.3)	1460	(29.7)	-0.1
<u>Comorbidities</u>							
Diabetes	5288	(55.9)	2580	(56.8)	2708	(55.1)	3.3
Hypertension	8158	(86.3)	3941	(86.8)	4217	(85.8)	2.5
Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease	2791	(29.5)	1321	(29.1)	1470	(29.9)	-1.9
Heart Failure	3579	(37.9)	1743	(38.4)	1836	(37.4)	2.0
Peripheral Vascular Disease	1599	(16.9)	777	(17.1)	822	(16.7)	1.0
Cerebrovascular Disease	1126	(11.9)	530	(11.7)	596	(12.1)	-1.5
Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease	1149	(12.2)	613	(13.5)	536	(10.9)	7.9
Cancer	763	(8.1)	418	(9.2)	345	(7.0)	8.0
Unable to ambulate or transfer	824	(8.7)	404	(8.9)	420	(8.5)	1.2
Tobacco Use	678	(7.2)	339	(7.5)	339	(6.9)	2.2
Drug Use	179	(1.9)	79	(1.7)	100	(2.0)	-2.2
Alcohol Use	147	(1.6)	68	(1.5)	79	(1.6)	-0.9
<u>Reported measurements</u>							

Body Mass Index (kg/m ² ; 1.8%)	28.8	(23.4-32.9)	29.1	(23.5-33.0)	28.6	(23.3-32.7)	6.1
Hemoglobin, g/dL (10.3%)	10.0	(8.9-11.0)	10.1	(9.0-11.0)	9.9	(8.8-10.9)	10.6
Serum Albumin mg/dL (21.2%)	3.1	(2.7-3.6)	3.2	(2.7-3.7)	3.1	(2.7-3.6)	12.2
eGFR at time of dialysis initiation, mL/min per 1.73 m ² (1.9%)	10.8	(7.4-13.3)	11.0	(7.7-13.5)	10.5	(7.1-13.1)	10.3

Incident hemodialysis patients in the study facilities who had Medicare Part A and B coverage on day 90 after initiation of dialysis were captured for analysis of claims-based endpoints.

Abbreviations: eGFR – estimated glomerular filtration rate; ESA – erythropoiesis-stimulating agent; ESRD – end-stage renal disease; IQR – interquartile range; SD – standardized difference.