

**Table S1.** Summary of patient characteristics: development and validation cohorts

Factor	Development cohort (N=52,796) % or mean (SD) [IQR]	Validation cohort (N=16,645) % or mean (SD) [IQR]
Age (year)	76.9 (6.5) [71-82]	76.8 (6.5) [71-82]
Sex – Female	46.2	46.9
Race – White	75.3	75.0
Black	20.0	20.0
Other	4.7	5.0
Ethnicity - Hispanic	8.2	8.2
Urban (vs. Rural)	83.2	83.0
Dialysis modality – hemodialysis	95.8	95.0
Access at 1 <sup>st</sup> dialysis – catheter only	60.6	59.4
Patient informed regarding transplant	66.3	67.7
Time between 1 <sup>st</sup> evaluation by nephrologist and start of dialysis		
– Never	17.0	18.9
0 < to ≤ 4 month	22.2	20.9
4 < to ≤ 12 months	12.9	13.2
12 < to ≤ 24 months	47.9	47.0
BMI	28.0 (7.0) [23.2-31.4]	28.1 (7.0) [23.3-31.7]
Albumin (g/dl)*	3.2 (0.66) [2.7-3.6]	3.2 (0.66) [2.7-3.6]
Hemoglobin (g/dl)*	10.0 (1.5) [9.0-10.9]	9.9 (1.5) [8.9-10.8]
Creatinine (mg/dl)	5.3 (2.3) [3.8-6.2]	5.3 (2.3) [3.8-6.2]
GFR (ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )	12.2 (5.1) [8.5-14.9]	12.2 (5.1) [8.5-15.0]
Current smoker	3.5	3.7
Alcohol problem	4.9	4.9
Drug dependence	0.1	0.1
Need assistance with daily living	21.1	21.9
Institutionalized	12.1	12.7
Cancer	14.1	14.1
COPD	28.0	28.5
PVD	27.5	28.1
Diabetes	58.4	59.7
Depression	10.0	10.9
Dementia	5.9	5.8
Congestive heart failure	52.5	52.7
Coronary heart disease	51.6	52.1
Stroke	16.9	17.2
AIDS	0.1	0.1
Charlson comorbidity index	7.7 (3.5) [5-10]	7.7 (3.5) [5-10]
# of hospitalization	1.0 (1.3) [0-2]	1.0 (1.3) [0-2]
Total hospital days	8.1 (13.9) [0-11]	8.4 (14.3) [0-11]
# of ER visits	1.4 (1.7) [0-2]	1.4 (1.7) [0-2]
Mortality – within 3 months	12.3	12.5
within 6 months	20.3	20.4

\*About 75% and 91% patients had complete (i.e., nonmissing) data on albumin and hemoglobin, respectively, but summary statistics were unchanged without or with imputation. All other variables are complete. Health resource utilization (hospitalizations and ER visits) based on 6 months prior to dialysis initiation.