

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Little is known about variation in outcomes of veterans with ESRD across different dialysis settings (within Veterans Affairs [VA] facilities or at community-based clinics) and financial arrangements (VA or Medicare). Studies of small, regional samples of veterans have yielded mixed results on outcomes across dialysis settings. In an analysis of a national cohort of 27,241 veterans who initiated chronic dialysis in 2008 to 2011, the authors found significantly higher mortality during the 2 years after dialysis initiation among veterans who received dialysis at community-based clinics financed by Medicare or the VA than among veterans receiving dialysis within the VA itself or in more than one dialysis setting. These findings may help inform institutional decisions about provision of dialysis for veterans.