Table S1. Outcome definitions

Primary study outcomes		
Clinical outcome	**Data source**	**Specification**
All-cause mortality	USRDS Patients File (based on the ESRD Death Notification Form, CMS 2746)	Death due to any cause
Cardiovascular mortality[8]	USRDS Patients File (based on the ESRD Death Notification Form, CMS 2746)	Death with any cardiovascular death code (23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 35 or 36) listed as the primary cause of death on the ESRD death notification form[a]
Secondary study outcomes		
Clinical outcome	**Data source**	**Specification**
All-cause hospitalization[8]	USRDS Medicare Part A Claims	Claim for an inpatient hospital admission regardless of cause
Cardiovascular hospitalization[8]	USRDS Medicare Part A Claims	Claim for an inpatient hospital admission with a cardiovascular ICD-9 discharge diagnosis code (276.6, 394–398, 401–405, 410–420, 421.9, 422.90, 422.99, 423–438 or 440–459) located in the primary billing position[b]
Tracer outcome		
Clinical outcome	**Data source**	**Specification**
Hospitalized bowel obstruction	USRDS Medicare Part A Claims	Claim for an inpatient hospital admission with a bowel obstruction ICD-9 discharge diagnosis code (560) located in the any billing position[b]

[a] The cardiovascular cause of death codes include the following clinical conditions: acute myocardial infarction, pericarditis (including cardiac tamponade), atherosclerotic heart disease, cardiomyopathy, cardiac arrhythmia, cardiac arrest (cause unknown), valvular heart disease, pulmonary edema due to exogenous fluid, congestive heart failure, pulmonary embolus and cerebrovascular accident (including intracranial hemorrhage).

[b] Specified three-digit ICD-9 diagnosis categories include all existing 4th and 5th digit diagnosis codes. Specified four-digit ICD-9 diagnosis categories include all existing 5th digit diagnosis codes.

Abbreviations: CMS, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; ESRD, end-stage renal disease; ICD-9, International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision; USRDS, United States Renal Data System