

Temporal Relationship between Prior Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate Testing and Dialysis Initiation in Real-World Population of Incident Dialysis Patients

Introduction

- Each year over 100,000 patients in the United States develop end-stage kidney disease (ESKD).^{1,2} Kidney function is measured using the estimated golmerular filtration rate (eGFR). A decline in eGFR is an indication of the need for dialysis.
- Patients starting dialysis often experience adverse clinical outcomes in the first few months of dialysis, including frequent hospital admissions and high mortality rates.³
- Properly preparing for dialysis initiation can lead to better short and long-term outcomes for new dialysis patients.
- Adequate preparation usually requires ≥ 6 months lead time and knowledge of the severity of a patient's kidney disease.

Objective

We sought to describe the patterns of dialysis starts with respect to timing and severity of prior kidney disease, as reflected by eGFR testing.

Methods

- We examined the Optum® de-identified Integrated Dataset that links administrative claims and clinical data from providers across the continuum of care.⁴
- Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:
- Included adults (≥18 years) who initiated dialysis across multiple outpatient provider networks between 2012 and 2019.
- Excluded patients without continual insurance coverage for at least 61 days prior to dialysis start.
- All eGFR test results were obtained in outpatient settings prior to the start of dialysis.

Results

Patient Pathways to Dialysis



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Results

Screening Failure - No eGFR No eGFR documented before starting dialysis.



23.9% of patients have no documented eGFR before starting outpatient dialysis

Conclusions

- As many as 45% of patients who started dialysis did not have the necessary upstream CKD screening or surveillance necessary to prepare for dialysis intiation.
- Increased surveillance of eGFR prior to dialysis start will lead to better clinical outcomes for patients.

References

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- 3. Chang C-H, Fan P-C, Kuo G, et al. Infection in Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease and Subsequent Adverse Outcomes after Dialysis Initiation: A Nationwide Cohort Study. Scientific Reports. 2020;10(1):2938.
- 4. Optum's de-identified Integrated Claims-Clinical dataset (2007-2021)

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