

Measure Information Form

General Characteristics

Measure ID:	<i>(Auto-generated, when entered into QMIS by the Measures Manager)</i>
Measure Name:	ESRD- Anemia Management CPM II a: Assessment of Iron Stores
Measure Description:	Percentage of all adult (≥ 18 years old) hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis patients prescribed an ESA at any time during the study period or who have a Hb < 11.0 g/dL in at least one month of the study period for whom serum ferritin concentration AND either percent transferrin saturation or reticulocyte Hb content (CHr) are measured at least once during the study period for in-center hemodialysis patients, and at least twice during the study period for peritoneal dialysis patients and home hemodialysis patients.

CMS contact:

Thomas Dudley, MS, RN

Consumer Care Need

- Living with Illness

Quality Domain

- Effectiveness

Type of Measure

- Process

Body System

- Hematologic
 - Anemia
- Kidney/Urinary Tract
 - ESRD

Variable Characteristics

Measure Care Setting

- Dialysis Facility

Unit of Measurement

- Facility

Consensus Endorsement Status

- NQF (National Quality Forum), Endorsed, November 15, 2007

Technical Specifications

Target Population

Age

Lower limit

- 18

Lower Span

-Years

Gender

- Both Males and Females

Anchor Date

NA

Effective Date

- 4/1/08- Please see Phase III ESRD Clinical Performance Measures (link below):

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CPMProject/Downloads/ESRDPhaseIIICPM04012008Final.pdf>

Payer Source

- Medicare

Measure result reported as

- Positive

CHI Compliant

- Yes

Method of Data collection

- Electronic supplemented by medical record review

Numerator Statement

Number of dialysis patients in the denominator for whom serum ferritin concentration AND either percent transferrin saturation or reticulocyte Hb content (CHr) are measured at least once during the study period for in-center hemodialysis patients, and at least twice during the study period for peritoneal dialysis patients and home hemodialysis patients.

Data source

- Administrative and medical record data
- Retrospective electronic/paper data collection
- Instrument data collection form

Numerator Time Window

Data collected for this ESRD CPM are for the three-month time period (Oct-Dec) for the in-center hemodialysis patients and a six-month time period for peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis patients.

Denominator statement

All adult (≥ 18 years old) hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis patients prescribed an ESA at any time during the study period or who have a Hb < 11.0 g/dL in at least one month of the study period. The study period consists of 3 consecutive months for in-center hemodialysis patients, and 6 consecutive months for peritoneal dialysis patients and home hemodialysis. The hemoglobin value reported for the end of each study month (end-of-month Hb) is used for this calculation.

Data source

- Administrative and medical record data
- Retrospective electronic/paper data collection
- Instrument data collection form

Denominator Time Window

Same as numerator

Exclusion Criteria

Acute HD, transient dialysis patients (seen at the specific center for less than 30 days), and kidney transplant patients are excluded from the calculation this CPM.

Data source

- Administrative and medical record data
- Retrospective electronic/paper data collection
- Instrument data collection form

History**Measure Status**

- Implemented/approved by CMS

CMS Active Implementation Date

- 2/1/09

Measure Developer

- CMS
Contractor: Arbor Research/UM-KECC

Intellectual property status

- Public Domain

Measure Source *(if adapted, provide name of original measure and original specifications as an attachment; summarize the changes that were made to the measure)*

- Adapted from original iron stores measure with submitted status date of 8/15/2005.

CMS Final Approval Date

- 4/1/08

CMS Implementation Use

- ESRD Disease Management
- ESRD Network Program
- Other
Quality Improvement and Public Reporting

Attachments**The Measure Justification is a required attachment**

Depending on the measure contract (development/maintenance/reevaluation) and, if the measure is risk adjusted, some of the listed Measures Management System forms may be required

- **Comprehensive Measure Reevaluation**

Other attachments

Comments:

Measure Justification

Measure ID	(Auto-generated when entered into QMIS)
Measure Name	ESRD- Anemia Management CPM IIa: Assessment of Iron Stores.
Completed by Initial & Date	CMS Measures Contractor; October 2, 2008
CMS Active Implementation Date	February 1, 2009
Date of Last Review	November 15, 2007

Section I: Importance/Relevance

Epidemiological relevance, Financial relevance, Policy relevance

Epidemiological relevance

The kidneys are responsible for the production of the hormone erythropoietin, which stimulates the production of red blood cells in the bone marrow. Kidney disease frequently results in a deficiency in this hormone, leading to the development of anemia, particularly after reaching the reduced level of kidney function that requires dialysis. Hemodialysis also results in some blood loss during each treatment session. The benefit to patients of correcting anemia is primarily related to quality of life - increased vitality, less fatigue, less depression, and improved physical symptoms - and the avoidance of blood transfusions (KDOQI 2006). The use of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) and iron supplementation are accepted and effective therapies for correcting anemia in people with chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal failure. If iron stores are not sufficient, the increase in erythropoietin will not result in an increase in red blood cells and hemoglobin. Therefore, assessment of iron stores is important to ensure the success of ESA therapy. Testing iron status also assesses the potential contribution of iron deficiency to the patient's anemia and the potential need for further evaluation of gastrointestinal bleeding. At the end of 2005, there were 485,012 patients being dialyzed, 106,912 of whom were new (incident) ESRD patients (USRDS 2007 ADR, Tables D.1).

Financial relevance:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) spent \$227 million in 2005 for intravenous (IV) iron supplements for anemia management and \$161 million on all laboratory testing in dialysis patients. 87% of dialysis patients were prescribed IV iron in 2005. At the end of 2005, total Medicare costs for the ESRD program were \$19 billion. This represents approximately 6% of the total Medicare annual budget (USRDS 2007 ADR, Chapter 11).

Policy relevance:

In 1998, CMS developed ESRD Clinical Performance Measures (CPMs) based on the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Disease Quality Initiative Clinical Practice Guidelines, in response to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Sixteen CPMs were developed to measure and report the quality of dialysis services provided under Medicare in the areas of adequacy of hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, anemia management, and vascular access management. Section 4558 (b) of the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) requires CMS to develop and implement by January 1, 2000, a method to measure and report the quality of renal dialysis services provided under the Medicare program. To implement this legislation, CMS decided to fund the development of CPMs based on the National Kidney Foundation's Dialysis Outcome Quality Initiative (DOQI) Clinical Practice Guidelines.

Section 2: Scientific Soundness

Explicit evidence base: Consider strength of recommendation and level of evidence that support the measure.

Complete one literature citation for each guideline or study on which the measure is based, stating level of evidence and rating scheme used. A suggested format is below; another format may be used.

Literature citation for clinical guideline

- (1) KDOQI Clinical Practice Guideline and Clinical Practice Recommendations for Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease: 2007 Update of Hemoglobin Target, *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, 50(3): Pages 471-530 (September 2007).
 - A. The type of information: Clinical Guideline
 - B. Level of Evidence and Rating Scheme: Clinical Practice Recommendation and Moderately Strong Evidence
 - C. Web address http://www.kidney.org/professionals/KDOQI/guidelines_anemiaUP/guide1.htm
 - D. Brief synopsis: Hemoglobin target recommendation of 11.0mg/dL to 12.0mg/dL, hemoglobin target should not be above 13.0mg/dL.
- (2) KDOQI Clinical Practice Guidelines and Clinical Practice Recommendations for Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease, *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, 49(Supplement 3): S1-S146, May 2006.
 - A. The type of information: Clinical Guideline
 - B. Level of Evidence and Rating Scheme: Expert opinion
 - C. Web address http://www.kidney.org/professionals/KDOQI/guidelines_anemia/cpr32.htm
 - D. Brief synopsis: Hemoglobin target recommendation of 11.0mg/dL to 12.0mg/dL, hemoglobin target should not be above 13.0mg/dL.

KDOQI Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) and Recommendation (CPR): CPG AND CPR 3.2. USING IRON AGENTS

3.2.1 Frequency of iron status tests:

In the opinion of the Work Group, iron status tests should be performed as follows:

3.2.1.1 Every month during initial ESA treatment.

3.2.1.2 At least every 3 months during stable ESA treatment or in patients with HD-CKD not treated with an ESA.

Literature citation for supporting evidence/study

- (1) Singh AK, Szczech L, Tang KL, et al. Correction of anemia with epoetin alfa in chronic kidney disease. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 355: 2085-2098, 2006.
 - A. The type of information: Randomized Clinical Trial: CHOIR
 - B. Level of Evidence and Rating Scheme: B, subjects with CKD not on dialysis
 - C. Web address <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/355/20/2085.pdf>
 - D. Brief synopsis: Subjects randomized to a hemoglobin target of 13.5g/dL had fewer adverse events (death, hospitalization for chronic heart failure, myocardial infarction or stroke) than those randomized to a target of 11.3g/dL.
- (2) Drueke TB, Locatelli F, Clyne N, et al. Normalization of hemoglobin level in patients with chronic kidney disease and anemia. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 355: 2071-2084, 2006.
 - A. The type of information: Randomized Clinical Trial: CREATE
 - B. Level of Evidence and Rating Scheme: B, subjects with CKD not on dialysis
 - C. Web address <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/355/20/2071.pdf>
 - D. Brief synopsis: Found no difference in adverse events and increased quality of life scores between a group randomized to a target of 13.0 to 15.0g/dL and a group randomized to a target of 10.5 to 11.5g/dL.

- (3) U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Information for health care professionals: erythropoiesis stimulating agents. Updated 11/8/2007, <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/InfoSheets/HCP/RHE200711HCP.htm>
- A. The type of information: Determination by FDA's panel of experts' opinion
 - B. Level of Evidence and Rating Scheme: N/A, black box warning implemented
 - C. Web address <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/InfoSheets/HCP/RHE200711HCP.htm>
 - D. Brief synopsis: FDA added a black box warning to ESAs prescriber information that hemoglobin for patients with chronic renal failure should be targeted at the 10.0 to 12.0g/dL.

Other aspects of scientific soundness:

Reliability, Validity, and Adequacy of risk adjustment:

Please see below link for the Reliability Report:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CPMProject/Downloads/ESRD2006ReliabilityReport.pdf>

Please see the following reports on the validity of the CPM data:

Wolfe RA, Brunton C, Ashby VB, Hulbert-Shearon TE, Port FK, Saran R, Kari J: The Association between Dialysis Practice Patterns, Patient Mortality, and State Surveyor Findings. [Abstract] Journal of the American Society of Nephrology 2002; 13:627A.

Appendix D - MV Rocco, MD, DL Frankenfield, DrPH, SD Hopson, MSPH, et al. "Relationship between Clinical Performance Measures and Outcomes among Patients Receiving Long-Term Hemodialysis." *Ann Intern Med* 2006; 145:512-519.

Appendix E - DL Frankenfield, DrPH, ME Brier, PhD, MR Bedinger, BA, et al. "Comparison of Urea Reduction Ratio and Hematocrit Data Reported in Different Data Systems: Results From the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and The Renal Network Inc." *Am J of Kidney Dis*, Vol 41, No 2 (February), 2003: pp 433-441.

Risk adjustment is not applicable for this measure.

Section 3: Usability/Actionability

Provides actionable decision support, Message is clear to recipient, Operational relevance

Please see below link for the Annual Report.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CPMProject/Downloads/ESRD2006AnnualReport.pdf>

Section 4: Feasibility

Specifications are well-defined, Reasonable burden of data collection, Minimum distortion

Administrative and Medical Record data is used.

There are no potential barriers to retrieving data necessary for the measure, and there are no data availability issues.

Approximate time for data collection

FOR ALL MEASURES TOTAL IN THE ESRD DIALYSIS FACILITY MEASURES SET: Approximately 30 minutes for data abstraction, less if the patient's medical record has not been sent to offsite storage. This is the time estimate if all of the data elements are manually abstracted. However, for those facilities that are owned by Large Dialysis Organizations (LDO's), a majority of the data elements are submitted

electronically from the LDO's corporate database to CMS. Only a few if any elements are abstracted manually by facility staff, so their time for data abstraction is reduced considerably.

CMS is in the process of implementing a web-based data collection system called **CrownWeb** for the measures; however, at this time CMS has not assessed the cost and administrative burden of using CrownWeb by dialysis facilities. CrownWeb is scheduled to be implemented early 2009.

Comprehensive Reevaluation

<i>Measure ID</i>	(Auto-generated when entered into QMIS)
Measure Set:	Anemia Management
Measure Name:	ESRD- Anemia Management CPM II: Assessment of Iron Stores
Measure Description:	Percentage of all adult (≥ 18 years old) hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis patients prescribed an ESA at any time during the study period or who have a Hb < 11.0 g/dL in at least one month of the study period for whom serum ferritin concentration AND either percent transferrin saturation or reticulocyte Hb content (CHR) are measured at least once during the study period for in-center hemodialysis patients, and at least twice during the study period for peritoneal dialysis patients and home hemodialysis patients.
CMS GTL/PO:	Thomas Dudley, MS, RN

Version Changes

Summarize what has changed in this version?

Separate measures for hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis were combined into one. Use of Epoetin (brand name) was replaced with the generic erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs). Includes home hemodialysis patients in denominator. Includes the option of using reticulocyte hemoglobin content (CHR) instead of transferrin saturation. Hemoglobin used in calculating the measure is the end-of-month Hb.

Date of review (NQF approval date(s))
November 15, 2007

I. Summary of Current Performance Data Analysis on Each Measure—(measure data as submitted to NQF).

Attach charts, graphs, or tables, as directed by CMS, that summarize the performance of the measure since it was initially used by CMS (ideally) or at least since it was last evaluated (either at measure inception or previous comprehensive evaluation).

Please see the 2006 ESRD CPM Annual Report (link below):

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CPMProject/Downloads/ESRD2006AnnualReport.pdf>

II. Summary of Analysis of the Comments and Questions Received Going into the TEP and during the NQF comment period:

- A. Importance
- B. Scientific Acceptability
- C. Feasibility
- D. Usability

Please see the ESRD CPM Development Process Final Report and ESRD TEP Final Report (links below).

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CPMProject/Downloads/ESRDDevelopmentProcessFinalReport.pdf>
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CPMProject/Downloads/ESRDTEPFinalReport05212008.pdf>

III. Environmental scan to identify relevant scientific or other information published since the last time the measure was evaluated.

Document all relevant publications found, with a clear indication of:

- A. The type of information
- B. The level of evidence
- C. The relevant Web address (if the article is accessible via the Web)
- D. A brief synopsis of the information and its relevance to the Comprehensive Reevaluation
 - Example #1 (for new guidelines): “ACC HF guidelines now consider ARBs to be equivalent to ACEIs.”
 - Example #2 (for a study on antibiotics): “Study shows increase in inappropriate use of antibiotics in ER patients since measure was implemented.”

(1) Clinical Practice Guidelines and Clinical Practice Recommendations for Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease, *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, 49(Supplement 3): S1-S146, May 2006.

- A. Clinical Guideline
- B. Expert opinion
- C. http://www.kidney.org/professionals/KDOQI/guidelines_anemia/cpr32.htm
- D. Iron stores should be evaluated every three months during stable ESA therapy and in those dialysis patients not treated with an ESA.

IV. A technical expert panel was convened: Yes No

If yes, date(s) of the meeting(s):

Clinical-TEP: September 18-19, 2006

Data-TEP: October 11-12, 2006

Briefly summarize the TEP recommendations here.

C-TEP Recommendations

Assessment of iron stores among anemic patients or patients prescribed ESAs.

For patients with Hb < 11.0 g/dL in at least one study month or patients prescribed ESAs, the serum ferritin concentration and either percent transferrin saturation or reticulocyte Hb content (CHr) are assessed (measured) *at least once in a three-month period* for hemodialysis patients and *at least two times during the six month study period* for peritoneal dialysis patients.

- The recommended change from “patients prescribed epoetin” to “patients prescribed ESAs” allows for including all agents that augment erythropoiesis through direct or indirect action on the erythropoietin receptor. Currently available ESAs include epoetin alfa, epoetin beta and darbepoetin alfa. However, it is conceivable that other ESAs useful for anemia management in ESRD dialysis patients may become available in the future.
- The recommendation to allow for use of reticulocyte Hb content (CHr) as an alternative to TSAT for assessment of iron stores is based on the 2006 KDOQI anemia management guidelines. Serum ferritin and TSAT are widely available tests for the diagnosis of iron deficiency. Reticulocyte Hb content (CHr) is not as widely available and the literature regarding its validity in

the diagnosis of iron deficiency is not as extensive as for serum ferritin and TSAT, but it is a reasonable alternative to TSAT because of the variability of the latter due to diurnal variation, diet and medications.

D-TEP Recommendations:

Comments:

The D-TEP agreed that CHr needs to be added and that acceptable ranges should be obtained from the LDOs. The panel and CMS requested that Arbor Research confer with the C-TEP to define what it means to be an ESA-treated patient. The panel and CMS noted that KDOQI presented this as a Clinical Performance Recommendation (CPR) and not a Clinical Performance Guideline (CPG). The panel also wanted clarification if the three- and six-month time frames were tied to a guideline or if it was just the way these lab values have been collected to date. In addition, the panel and CMS asked Arbor Research to clarify that all of the anemia management measures exclude patients on dialysis for less than 90 days.

V. If any of the codes used in the technical specifications have changed since the last measure update or comprehensive reevaluation, specify the change(s) with an explanation of its impact on the measure.

NA

VI. If material¹ changes to the measure have occurred — i.e., wording, data elements, time periods, abstraction instructions, etc. — document them here. If material changes were made to the measure, was the measure tested?

Yes No

If yes, indicate the results of the testing.

¹ A **material change** is one that changes the intended meaning of the measure or the strength of the measure in terms of measure evaluation criteria. NQF's process for an ad hoc expedited review will be triggered at any point when the measure developer make material changes to the measure construct (including the numerator, denominator, and exclusions) or measure logic. The timing of the ad hoc review will depend on whether there is an accompanying safety concern. If changes to the measure are deemed appropriate:

- Would a change in the measure result in statistical discontinuity from the current measurement baseline?
- Would a change in the measure significantly impact current processes and the burden for data collection, analysis, and reporting?
- Would the proposed change unintentionally result in the modification of a current clinical or administrative practice?

Measure Contractor Recommended Disposition			
Measure contractor recommended disposition of the measure	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain		Effective Date of Action
	<input type="checkbox"/> Revise (as described above)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replace		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rotate		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Retire		
Rationale for recommendation	Changes to measure accommodate recent changes in clinical practice guidelines and medical technology (i.e., new drug introductions and lab tests).		
Effective date basis	<input type="checkbox"/> Discharges	<input type="checkbox"/> Admissions	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Date <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Recommended by	Name: Date:		

CMS Role	
CMS decision for measure disposition <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as recommended.	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain
	Effective Date of Action
	<input type="checkbox"/> Revise
	<input type="checkbox"/> Replace
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rotate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Retire
Comments about decision	
Approved by	Name: Date: