Reviewer's report

Title: Association of dialysis facility-level hemoglobin measurement and erythropoiesis-stimulating agent dose adjustment frequencies with dialysis facility-level hemoglobin variation: a retrospective analysis

Version: 1 Date: 17 February 2011

Reviewer: Francesco Locatelli

Reviewer's report:

1) The major limit of the paper is the lack of information about iron administration protocol and about iron indexes. The authors themselves acknowledged this limit, but it should be better emphasized in the discussion.

2) Methods: The only ESA administered was intravenous epoetin alpha, thus the results are valid only for this drug and this route of administration, as the authors themselves partially underlined in the discussion section.

3) In the results section there are many comments that should be moved to the discussion section; in the results section the authors should present only the results without any comment.

3) Background section: pg.4: The Hb target range of NKF is different; the authors should quote 2007 Guidelines instead of 1999 ones.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

member of an advisory board of Affimax, Amgen, GSK, Janssen, Roche, Takeda
member of a safety board of Sandoz