Reviewer’s report

Title: Monitoring of hemodialysis quality-of-care indicators. Why is it important?

Version: 2 Date: 25 October 2012

Reviewer: Steven Rosansky

Reviewer’s report:

i think that this paper could be refocused as a look at quality indicators and the complexity of trying to do any type of observational study relating these many indicators to outcome

a discussion of the indicators that your group find to be useful and with strong evidence base and versus those that may be much more controversial is in order

unfortunately most of what we do in nephrology has little evidence base

the hemo study did not find a benefit of increased clearance or hi flux on survival

neither did the ademex study

the use of hemodialfiltration and the relation of quality indicators for incident vs prevalent patients may be very different with regards to their value as outcome predictors

certainly vascular access is clearly an important indicator

the morass of other indicators and the reality of reverse epidemiology for dialysis patients re bp, weight needs to be mentioned

certainly the attempt by your group to monitor all of these measures of the paper and the various dialysis techniques is worth reporting on

how much of it is really making a difference?

this paper shows your attempt to describe the current indicators that ERBP uses but you need to discuss if it is possible to make sense of all of these indicators to measure benefit with so many variables changing simultaneously and for most indicators no strong evidence of benefit

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

no competing interests