Reviewer's report

Title: Attainment of Clinical Performance Targets and Improvement in Clinical Outcomes and Resource Use in Hemodialysis Care: A Prospective Cohort Study

Version: 1 Date: 13 November 2006

Reviewer: Ken Farrington

Reviewer's report:

General
The data this relates to predates current quality initiatives but nevertheless I think the conclusions are sound and that the paper provides a useful addition to current knowledge in this area.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Was the methodology for albumin measurement uniform across the participating centres?
The target level for albumin is given as >= 4mg/dl on page 6, and should be corrected
The quality of Figure 1 should be improved.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Whilst accepting the association between target achievement and outcome, it is difficult to judge how much this relates to quality of care and how much relates to the fixed characteristics of the patient. The authors do refer to this in the discussion but this could usefully be amplified. More could also be made of the change in target achievement from baseline to 6 months which might be a route to addressing this issue.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests