Author's response to reviews

Title: A retrospective, longitudinal study estimating the association between interdialytic weight gain and cardiovascular events and death in hemodialysis patients

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BMC Nephrology Editorial Board,

On behalf of my coauthors and I, please accept this submission to BMC Nephrology entitled, “A retrospective, longitudinal study estimating the association between interdialytic weight gain and cardiovascular events and death in hemodialysis patients.”

Upon initial review and editorial request, the manuscript now includes:
- Continuous page line numbering with no section page breaks
- A statement regarding informed consent in the Methods section

The manuscript describes an analysis of medical records from over 30,000 patients receiving hemodialysis at a large US dialysis organization. These dialysis patient files were merged with those from the United States Renal Data System to provide rigor in determining rates of patient outcomes including specific cardiovascular events and death occurring over the study period according to interdialytic weight gain. Our study findings contribute meaningfully by presenting how granular categories of interdialytic weight gain (calculated in absolute and relative terms) are associated with risk of specific cardiovascular events and death.

In developing this manuscript the criteria for authorship determined by the International Council of Medical Journal Editors have been met. The contributions of each author are described within.

This manuscript is not under consideration at another journal. Some data from the current manuscript were presented at the 2013 annual meeting of the American Society of Nephrology; a set of different outcomes measured from the same patient population was published in the Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology (cited within).

In considering peer reviewers, the following individuals are researchers of hemodialysis patient populations and fluid management:

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Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely, Claudia Cabrera