



Measure Information

This document contains the information submitted by measure developers/stewards, but is organized according to NQF's measure evaluation criteria and process. The item numbers refer to those in the submission form but may be in a slightly different order here. In general, the item numbers also reference the related criteria (e.g., item 1b.1 relates to subcriterion 1b).

Brief Measure Information

NQF #: 1666

Corresponding Measures:

De.2. Measure Title: Adult Kidney Disease : Patients on Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agent (ESA)--Hemoglobin Level > 12.0 g/dL

Co.1.1. Measure Steward: Renal Physicians Association

De.3. Brief Description of Measure: Percentage of calendar months within a 12-month period during which a hemoglobin level is measured for patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD) (stage 4 or 5, not receiving Renal Replacement Therapy [RRT]) or End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) (who are on hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) who are also receiving erythropoiesis-stimulating agent (ESA) therapy have a hemoglobin level > 12.0 g/dL

1b.1. Developer Rationale: Anemia is a common complication of chronic kidney disease (CKD). The prevalence of anemia varies with the degree of renal impairment in predialysis patients with CKD, but once end-stage kidney failure occurs, all patients are eventually affected. Anemia develops once renal function decreases to <50% because of a deficiency in endogenous erythropoietin (EPO) production by the kidney, decreased red cell survival, blood losses, and increased red blood cell destruction once the patient begins dialysis treatment, particular hemodialysis. Anemia reduces physical capacity, well-being, neurocognitive function, and energy level and worsens quality of life both in predialysis and dialysis patients. Anemia also induces adaptive cardiovascular mechanisms to maintain tissue oxygen supply. This leads to left ventricular hypertrophy, left ventricular dilation, and myocardial ischemia, which are risk factors for cardiovascular disease and death. It is plausible that reversing anemia may reduce this risk.

In clinical practice for CKD patients, determination of the frequency and size of sequential ESA dose adjustments in relationship to a threshold Hb or target Hb level; and an interpretation of previous therapeutic trends and responsiveness to ESA therapy is critical.(2)

Improvement in quality of life and avoidance of transfusion are treatment benefits from determining the appropriate hemoglobin level, and there is potential for harm when aiming for high Hb targets. The potential harms are based on evidence from RCT's suggesting that assignment to Hb targets greater than 13.0 g/dL may increase the risk of life threatening adverse events. (2)

1. Strippoli GFM, Craig JC, Manno C, Schena FP. Hemoglobin Targets for the Anemia of Chronic Kidney Disease: A Meta-analysis of Randomized, Controlled Trials. J Am Soc Nephrol 15:3154-3165, 2004.

2. National Kidney Foundation. KDOQI Clinical Practice Guidelines and Clinical Practice Recommendations for Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease: 2007 Update of Hemoglobin Target. Am J Kidney Dis 50, No 3 (September), 2007.

S.4. Numerator Statement: Calendar months during which patients have a hemoglobin level > 12.0 g/dL

S.7. Denominator Statement: All calendar months during which a hemoglobin level is measured for patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of advanced CKD (stage 4 or 5, not receiving RRT) or ESRD (who are on hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) who are also receiving ESA therapy

S.10. Denominator Exclusions: None

De.1. Measure Type: Outcome

S.23. Data Source: Claims, Electronic Health Records, Other, Registry Data

S.26. Level of Analysis: Clinician : Group/Practice, Clinician : Individual

IF Endorsement Maintenance – Original Endorsement Date: Apr 02, 2012 **Most Recent Endorsement Date:** Apr 02, 2012

IF this measure is included in a composite, NQF Composite#/title:

IF this measure is paired/grouped, NQF#/title:

De.4. IF PAIRED/GROUPED, what is the reason this measure must be reported with other measures to appropriately interpret results? This measure is not a composite or paired measure.

1. Evidence, Performance Gap, Priority – Importance to Measure and Report

Extent to which the specific measure focus is evidence-based, important to making significant gains in healthcare quality, and improving health outcomes for a specific high-priority (high-impact) aspect of healthcare where there is variation in or overall less-than-optimal performance. **Measures must be judged to meet all subcriteria to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.**

1a. Evidence to Support the Measure Focus – See attached Evidence Submission Form
[1666_Evidence_MSF5.0_Data-635278463350710147.doc](#)

1b. Performance Gap

Demonstration of quality problems and opportunity for improvement, i.e., data demonstrating:

- considerable variation, or overall less-than-optimal performance, in the quality of care across providers; and/or
- disparities in care across population groups.

1b.1. Briefly explain the rationale for this measure (e.g., the benefits or improvements in quality envisioned by use of this measure)

Anemia is a common complication of chronic kidney disease (CKD). The prevalence of anemia varies with the degree of renal impairment in predialysis patients with CKD, but once end-stage kidney failure occurs, all patients are eventually affected. Anemia develops once renal function decreases to <50% because of a deficiency in endogenous erythropoietin (EPO) production by the kidney, decreased red cell survival, blood losses, and increased red blood cell destruction once the patient begins dialysis treatment, particular hemodialysis. Anemia reduces physical capacity, well-being, neurocognitive function, and energy level and worsens quality of life both in predialysis and dialysis patients. Anemia also induces adaptive cardiovascular mechanisms to maintain tissue oxygen supply. This leads to left ventricular hypertrophy, left ventricular dilation, and myocardial ischemia, which are risk factors for cardiovascular disease and death. It is plausible that reversing anemia may reduce this risk.

In clinical practice for CKD patients, determination of the frequency and size of sequential ESA dose adjustments in relationship to a threshold Hb or target Hb level; and an interpretation of previous therapeutic trends and responsiveness to ESA therapy is critical.(2)

Improvement in quality of life and avoidance of transfusion are treatment benefits from determining the appropriate hemoglobin level, and there is potential for harm when aiming for high Hb targets. The potential harms are based on evidence from RCT's suggesting that assignment to Hb targets greater than 13.0 g/dL may increase the risk of life threatening adverse events. (2)

1. Strippoli GFM, Craig JC, Manno C, Schena FP. Hemoglobin Targets for the Anemia of Chronic Kidney Disease: A Meta-analysis of Randomized, Controlled Trials. J Am Soc Nephrol 15:3154-3165, 2004.

2. National Kidney Foundation. KDOQI Clinical Practice Guidelines and CLinical Practice Recommendations for Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease: 2007 Update of Hemoglobin Target. Am J Kidney Dis 50, No 3 (September), 2007.

1b.2. Provide performance scores on the measure as specified (current and over time) at the specified level of analysis. (This is required for endorsement maintenance. Include mean, std dev, min, max, interquartile range, scores by decile. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities included). This information also will be used to address the subcriterion on improvement (4b.1) under Usability and Use.

Among incident dialysis patients receiving EPO in the first year of therapy, and with an initial hemoglobin of 10 g/dL or greater, the probability of reaching a hemoglobin of 13 g/dl or higher has fallen from 0.86 for 2005 incident patients to 0.79 for those beginning treatment in 2007.

This new measure encompasses patients with CKD and ESRD which is a combination of two previous measures. One of these

measures, Plan of Care for ESRD Patients with Anemia, was used in the CMS Physician Quality Reporting Initiative, in the claims option for 2008.1

There is a gap in care as shown by this 2008 data; 63.5 % of patients reported on did not receive the optimal care.

10th percentile: 10.42 %

25th percentile: 38.17 %

50th percentile: 66.23 %

75th percentile: 84.04 %

90th percentile: 94.93 %

1b.3. If no or limited performance data on the measure as specified is reported in 1b2, then provide a summary of data from the literature that indicates opportunity for improvement or overall less than optimal performance on the specific focus of measurement.

1. US Renal Data System, USRDS 2010 Annual Data Report: Atlas of Chronic Kidney Disease and End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Bethesda, MD, 2010.

2. Confidential CMS PQRI 2008 Performance Information by Measure. Jan-Sept TAP file.

1b.4. Provide disparities data from the measure as specified (current and over time) by population group, e.g., by race/ethnicity, gender, age, insurance status, socioeconomic status, and/or disability. (This is required for endorsement maintenance. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities include.) This information also will be used to address the subcriterion on improvement (4b.1) under Usability and Use.

Anemia, a common complication of CKD, is more prevalent and severe in African-American than Caucasian patients at each stage of the disease. Currently, African-Americans with CKD are less likely than Caucasian patients to receive anemia treatment before and after the onset of dialysis. Although African-Americans often require higher doses of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents, this may result from late treatment initiation, lower hemoglobin levels, or the presence of comorbidities such as diabetes and inflammation, although racial differences in response cannot be excluded.

Healthy and iron-replete African-Americans typically have lower average hemoglobin (Hb) levels than Caucasians, reflecting, among other factors, the effects of an alpha-thalassemia deletion allele (gene frequency 0.169). Iron deficiency anemia is also frequent in African-Americans, with prevalences ranging up to 19% in premenopausal black women.

In the general population as well as in all stages of CKD, anemia has been shown to be more prevalent in African-Americans than Caucasians, perhaps reflecting low Hb prior to CKD onset and/or higher prevalence of iron deficiency.

Once dialysis is initiated, African-Americans receive higher ESA doses; however, it is difficult to distinguish the effects of nutritional deficiency, lower pretreatment Hb levels, and delayed ESA initiation from possible racial-specific biological effects on ESA responsiveness.

1b.5. If no or limited data on disparities from the measure as specified is reported in 1b4, then provide a summary of data from the literature that addresses disparities in care on the specific focus of measurement. Include citations.

Lea JP. The role of anemia management in improving outcomes for african-americans. Am J Nephrol 2008;28:732–743

1c. High Priority (previously referred to as High Impact)

The measure addresses:

- a specific national health goal/priority identified by DHHS or the National Priorities Partnership convened by NQF; OR
- a demonstrated high-priority (high-impact) aspect of healthcare (e.g., affects large numbers of patients and/or has a substantial impact for a smaller population; leading cause of morbidity/mortality; high resource use (current and/or future); severity of illness; and severity of patient/societal consequences of poor quality).

1c.1. Demonstrated high priority aspect of healthcare

Affects large numbers, A leading cause of morbidity/mortality, Frequently performed procedure, High resource use, Patient/societal consequences of poor quality, Severity of illness

1c.2. If Other:

1c.3. Provide epidemiologic or resource use data that demonstrates the measure addresses a high priority aspect of healthcare. List citations in 1c.4.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD), affects approximately 13.1% of United States adults and leads to end-stage renal disease (ESRD), cardiovascular disease (CVD), and premature death. (1)

CKD affects up to 5% of the population and 25% of those aged 70 years or older. An additional 6% of the population has signs of kidney damage, which may progress to ESRD. (2)

CKD is not recognized as a major public health concern. It is estimated that approximately 26.3 million adults in the U.S. have non-dialysis dependent kidney disease and over 470,000 have ESRD, collectively representing over 13% of the US population. In the next 20 years, the burden of CKD is expected to increase, with over 2 million individuals projected to be receiving renal replacement therapy (dialysis or kidney transplant) by 2030. (3)

Costs for CKD patients are now 23 percent of Medicare expenditures in the fee-for-service sector; when added to costs for ESRD patients, it appears that 31 percent of all Medicare expenditures are incurred by patients with a diagnosis of kidney disease. (4)

In 1993, costs for Medicare patients with CKD accounted for 3.8 percent of overall Medicare expenditures. By 2008, this had grown to 14.2 percent, in part reflecting growth in the number of recognized CKD patients. (4)

In 2008, 37-38 percent of prevalent dialysis patients had a hemoglobin of 11-12 g/dl, the target set by KDOQI; the mean monthly hemoglobin was 11.6 g/dl.(4)

Views of anemia treatment have evolved over the last several years, as safety concerns about targeting higher hemoglobin levels have emerged from clinical trials. The FDA's recommended target - a range of 10-12 g/dl - is achieved by 68 percent of prevalent patients.(4)

Currently, patients with CKD are five to 10 times more likely to die than to reach ESRD. (4)

1c.4. Citations for data demonstrating high priority provided in 1a.3

1. Snyder JJ, Collins AJ. Association of Preventive Health Care with Atherosclerotic Heart Disease and Mortality in CKD. J Am Soc Nephrol. 2009 July; 20(7): 1614–1622.

2. Alves TP, Lewis J. Racial differences in chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) in the United States: a social and economic dilemma. Clinical Nephrology. 2010;74(1):S72-S77.

3. Choi AI, Rodriguez RA, Bacchetti P, Bertenthal D, et al. White/Black Racial Differences in Risk of End-Stage Renal Disease and Death. Am J Med. 2009 July;122(7):672-678.

4. US Renal Data System, USRDS 2010 Annual Data Report: Atlas of Chronic Kidney Disease and End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Bethesda, MD, 2010.

1c.5. If a PRO-PM (e.g. HRQoL/functional status, symptom/burden, experience with care, health-related behaviors), provide evidence that the target population values the measured PRO and finds it meaningful. (Describe how and from whom their input was obtained.)

2. Reliability and Validity—Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties

Extent to which the measure, as specified, produces consistent (reliable) and credible (valid) results about the quality of care when implemented. ***Measures must be judged to meet the subcriteria for both reliability and validity to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.***

2a.1. Specifications The measure is well defined and precisely specified so it can be implemented consistently within and across organizations and allows for comparability. eMeasures should be specified in the Health Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and the Quality Data Model (QDM).

De.5. Subject/Topic Area (check all the areas that apply):

Renal, Renal : Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), Renal : End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

De.6. Non-Condition Specific (check all the areas that apply):

Safety, Safety : Complications, Safety : Overuse

S.1. Measure-specific Web Page (Provide a URL link to a web page specific for this measure that contains current detailed specifications including code lists, risk model details, and supplemental materials. Do not enter a URL linking to a home page or to general information.)

www.physicianconsortium.org

S.2a. If this is an eMeasure, HQMF specifications must be attached. Attach the zipped output from the eMeasure authoring tool (MAT) - if the MAT was not used, contact staff. (Use the specification fields in this online form for the plain-language description of the specifications)

This is not an eMeasure Attachment:

S.2b. Data Dictionary, Code Table, or Value Sets (and risk model codes and coefficients when applicable) must be attached. (Excel or csv file in the suggested format preferred - if not, contact staff)

Attachment Attachment: [AMA-PCPI_AKID-7_ESA Therapy Hgb greater than 12.0-635289373564357009.pdf](#)

S.3. For endorsement maintenance, please briefly describe any changes to the measure specifications since last endorsement date and explain the reasons.

S.4. Numerator Statement (Brief, narrative description of the measure focus or what is being measured about the target population, i.e., cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome)

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, state the outcome being measured. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm.

Calendar months during which patients have a hemoglobin level > 12.0 g/dL

S.5. Time Period for Data (What is the time period in which data will be aggregated for the measure, e.g., 12 mo, 3 years, look back to August for flu vaccination? Note if there are different time periods for the numerator and denominator.)

each month during 12 consecutive month measurement period

S.6. Numerator Details (All information required to identify and calculate the cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome such as definitions, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b)

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the observed outcome is identified/counted. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm.

Numerator Definition: The hemoglobin values used for this measure should be the most recent (last) hemoglobin value recorded for each calendar month

Numerator Note: For this measure, a lower score indicates higher quality

During the NQF Maintenance Process, an EHR Specification was provided for this performance measure, see attached in field S.2b. Data Dictionary Code Table.

For Claims/Administrative:

G0908: Most recent hemoglobin (Hgb) level > 12.0 g/dL

S.7. Denominator Statement (Brief, narrative description of the target population being measured)

All calendar months during which a hemoglobin level is measured for patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of advanced CKD (stage 4 or 5, not receiving RRT) or ESRD (who are on hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) who are also receiving ESA therapy

S.8. Target Population Category (Check all the populations for which the measure is specified and tested if any):

Elderly

S.9. Denominator Details (All information required to identify and calculate the target population/denominator such as definitions, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b)

Denominator Definition: RRT (Renal Replacement Therapy) - For the purposes of this measure, RRT includes hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and kidney transplantation

During the NQF Maintenance Process, EHR Specifications were provided for this performance measure, see attached in field S.2b. Data Dictionary Code Table.

For Claims/Administrative:

Patients aged >=18 years

AND

Diagnosis for stage 4 or 5 CKD (ICD-9-CM) [for use 1/1/2014-9/30/2014]: 585.4, 585.5

Diagnosis for stage 4 or 5 CKD (ICD-10-CM) [for use 10/01/2014-12/31/2014]: N18.4, N18.5

OR

Diagnosis for ESRD (ICD-9-CM) [for use 1/1/2014-9/30/2014]: 585.6

Diagnosis for ESRD (ICD-10-CM) [for use 10/01/2014-12/31/2014]: N18.6

AND

Patient encounter during the reporting period (CPT): 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99241, 99242, 99243, 99244, 99245, 99304, 99305, 99306, 99307, 99308, 99309, 99310, 99324, 99325, 99326, 99327, 99328, 99334, 99335, 99336, 99337, 99341, 99342, 99343, 99344, 99345, 99347, 99348, 99349, 99350

AND

CPT II 4171F: Patient receiving Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agent (ESA) therapy

S.10. Denominator Exclusions (Brief narrative description of exclusions from the target population)

None

S.11. Denominator Exclusion Details (All information required to identify and calculate exclusions from the denominator such as definitions, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b)

N/A

S.12. Stratification Details/Variables (All information required to stratify the measure results including the stratification variables, definitions, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format with at S.2b)

We encourage the results of this measure to be stratified by race, ethnicity, administrative sex, and primary language.

S.13. Risk Adjustment Type (Select type. Provide specifications for risk stratification in S.12 and for statistical model in S.14-15)

No risk adjustment or risk stratification

If other:

S.14. Identify the statistical risk model method and variables (Name the statistical method - e.g., logistic regression and list all the risk factor variables. Note - risk model development and testing should be addressed with measure testing under Scientific Acceptability)

This measure is not risk adjusted.

S.15. Detailed risk model specifications (must be in attached data dictionary/code list Excel or csv file. Also indicate if available at measure-specific URL identified in S.1.)

Note: Risk model details (including coefficients, equations, codes with descriptors, definitions), should be provided on a separate worksheet in the suggested format in the Excel or csv file with data dictionary/code lists at S.2b.

S.15a. Detailed risk model specifications (if not provided in excel or csv file at S.2b)

S.16. Type of score:

Rate/proportion

If other:

S.17. Interpretation of Score (Classifies interpretation of score according to whether better quality is associated with a higher score, a lower score, a score falling within a defined interval, or a passing score)

Better quality = Lower score

S.18. Calculation Algorithm/Measure Logic (Describe the calculation of the measure score as an ordered sequence of steps including identifying the target population; exclusions; cases meeting the target process, condition, event, or outcome; aggregating data; risk adjustment; etc.)

Calculation algorithm is included in attachment in field S.2b. Data Dictionary Code Table.

S.19. Calculation Algorithm/Measure Logic Diagram URL or Attachment (You also may provide a diagram of the Calculation Algorithm/Measure Logic described above at measure-specific Web page URL identified in S.1 OR in attached appendix at A.1)

S.20. Sampling (If measure is based on a sample, provide instructions for obtaining the sample and guidance on minimum sample size.)

IF a PRO-PM, identify whether (and how) proxy responses are allowed.

This measure does not require sampling or a survey.

S.21. Survey/Patient-reported data (If measure is based on a survey, provide instructions for conducting the survey and guidance on minimum response rate.)

IF a PRO-PM, specify calculation of response rates to be reported with performance measure results.

S.22. Missing data (specify how missing data are handled, e.g., imputation, delete case.)

Required for Composites and PRO-PMs.

S.23. Data Source (Check ONLY the sources for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED).

If other, please describe in S.24.

Claims, Electronic Health Records, Other, Registry Data

S.24. Data Source or Collection Instrument (Identify the specific data source/data collection instrument e.g. name of database, clinical registry, collection instrument, etc.)

IF a PRO-PM, identify the specific PROM(s); and standard methods, modes, and languages of administration.

N/A

S.25. Data Source or Collection Instrument (available at measure-specific Web page URL identified in S.1 OR in attached appendix at A.1)

S.26. Level of Analysis (Check ONLY the levels of analysis for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)

Clinician : Group/Practice, Clinician : Individual

S.27. Care Setting (Check *ONLY* the settings for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)

Home Care, Other, Outpatient Services, Post-Acute Care

If other: Domiciliary, Rest Home, or Custodial Care Services

S.28. COMPOSITE Performance Measure - Additional Specifications (Use this section as needed for aggregation and weighting rules, or calculation of individual performance measures if not individually endorsed.)

2a. Reliability – See attached Measure Testing Submission Form

2b. Validity – See attached Measure Testing Submission Form

1666_MeasureTesting_MS5.0_Data-635278463350710147.doc

3. Feasibility

Extent to which the specifications including measure logic, require data that are readily available or could be captured without undue burden and can be implemented for performance measurement.

3a. Byproduct of Care Processes

For clinical measures, the required data elements are routinely generated and used during care delivery (e.g., blood pressure, lab test, diagnosis, medication order).

3a.1. Data Elements Generated as Byproduct of Care Processes.

generated by and used by healthcare personnel during the provision of care, e.g., blood pressure, lab value, medical condition

If other:

3b. Electronic Sources

The required data elements are available in electronic health records or other electronic sources. If the required data are not in electronic health records or existing electronic sources, a credible, near-term path to electronic collection is specified.

3b.1. To what extent are the specified data elements available electronically in defined fields? (i.e., data elements that are needed to compute the performance measure score are in defined, computer-readable fields)

ALL data elements are in defined fields in electronic health records (EHRs)

3b.2. If ALL the data elements needed to compute the performance measure score are not from electronic sources, specify a credible, near-term path to electronic capture, OR provide a rationale for using other than electronic sources.

3b.3. If this is an eMeasure, provide a summary of the feasibility assessment in an attached file or make available at a measure-specific URL.

Attachment:

3c. Data Collection Strategy

Demonstration that the data collection strategy (e.g., source, timing, frequency, sampling, patient confidentiality, costs associated with fees/licensing of proprietary measures) can be implemented (e.g., already in operational use, or testing demonstrates that it is ready to put into operational use). For eMeasures, a feasibility assessment addresses the data elements and measure logic and demonstrates the eMeasure can be implemented or feasibility concerns can be adequately addressed.

3c.1. Describe what you have learned/modified as a result of testing and/or operational use of the measure regarding data collection, availability of data, missing data, timing and frequency of data collection, sampling, patient confidentiality, time and cost of data collection, other feasibility/implementation issues.

IF a PRO-PM, consider implications for both individuals providing PROM data (patients, service recipients, respondents) and those whose performance is being measured.

This measure previously was for ESRD patients only and now includes CKD patients as well. CKD patients were tested for this measure in the CKD Plan of Care (Anemia) measure. There is no reason to believe that the combination of the two data elements is more difficult than finding each data element separately. Additionally, the cut-off level has changed from 11g/dL to 12 g/dL but there is no reason to believe that this affects the validity of the testing data.

3c.2. Describe any fees, licensing, or other requirements to use any aspect of the measure as specified (e.g., value/code set, risk model, programming code, algorithm).

4. Usability and Use

Extent to which potential audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policy makers) are using or could use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement to achieve the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4a. Accountability and Transparency

Performance results are used in at least one accountability application within three years after initial endorsement and are publicly reported within six years after initial endorsement (or the data on performance results are available). If not in use at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible plan for implementation within the specified timeframes is provided.

4.1. Current and Planned Use

NQF-endorsed measures are expected to be used in at least one accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement in addition to performance improvement.

Planned	Current Use (for current use provide URL)
Public Reporting	
Professional Certification or Recognition Program	
Quality Improvement (Internal to the specific organization)	

4a.1. For each CURRENT use, checked above, provide:

- Name of program and sponsor
- Purpose
- Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included

4a.2. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application (e.g., payment program, certification, licensing) what are the reasons? (e.g., Do policies or actions of the developer/steward or accountable entities restrict access to performance results or impede implementation?)

4a.3. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application, provide a credible plan for implementation within the expected timeframes -- any accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement. (Credible plan includes the specific program, purpose, intended audience, and timeline for implementing the measure within the specified timeframes. A plan for accountability applications addresses mechanisms for data aggregation and reporting.)

4b. Improvement

Progress toward achieving the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations is demonstrated. If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible rationale describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4b.1. Progress on Improvement. (Not required for initial endorsement unless available.)

Performance results on this measure (current and over time) should be provided in 1b.2 and 1b.4. Discuss:

- Progress (trends in performance results, number and percentage of people receiving high-quality healthcare)
- Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included

4b.2. If no improvement was demonstrated, what are the reasons? If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, provide a credible rationale that describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4c. Unintended Consequences

The benefits of the performance measure in facilitating progress toward achieving high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations outweigh evidence of unintended negative consequences to individuals or populations (if such evidence exists).

4c.1. Were any unintended negative consequences to individuals or populations identified during testing; OR has evidence of unintended negative consequences to individuals or populations been reported since implementation? If so, identify the negative unintended consequences and describe how benefits outweigh them or actions taken to mitigate them.

[We are not aware of any unintended consequences related to this measurement.](#)

5. Comparison to Related or Competing Measures

If a measure meets the above criteria and there are endorsed or new related measures (either the same measure focus or the same target population) or competing measures (both the same measure focus and the same target population), the measures are compared to address harmonization and/or selection of the best measure.

5. Relation to Other NQF-endorsed Measures

Are there related measures (conceptually, either same measure focus or target population) or competing measures (conceptually both the same measure focus and same target population)? If yes, list the NQF # and title of all related and/or competing measures.

5.1a. List of related or competing measures (selected from NQF-endorsed measures)

5.1b. If related or competing measures are not NQF endorsed please indicate measure title and steward.

5a. Harmonization

The measure specifications are harmonized with related measures;

OR

The differences in specifications are justified

5a.1. If this measure conceptually addresses EITHER the same measure focus OR the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):

Are the measure specifications completely harmonized?

5a.2. If the measure specifications are not completely harmonized, identify the differences, rationale, and impact on interpretability and data collection burden.

5b. Competing Measures

The measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., is a more valid or efficient way to measure);

OR

Multiple measures are justified.

5b.1. If this measure conceptually addresses both the same measure focus and the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):

Describe why this measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., a more valid or efficient way to measure quality); OR provide a rationale for the additive value of endorsing an additional measure. (Provide analyses when possible.)

[We are unaware of any competing measures.](#)

Appendix

A.1 Supplemental materials may be provided in an appendix. All supplemental materials (such as data collection instrument or methodology reports) should be organized in one file with a table of contents or bookmarks. If material pertains to a specific submission form number, that should be indicated. Requested information should be provided in the submission form and required attachments. There is no guarantee that supplemental materials will be reviewed.

Attachment:

Contact Information

Co.1 Measure Steward (Intellectual Property Owner): [Renal Physicians Association](#)

Co.2 Point of Contact: [Dale, Singer, dsinger@renalmd.org, 301-468-3515-](#)

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Provide a list of sponsoring organizations and workgroup/panel members' names and organizations. Describe the members' role in measure development.

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Measure Developer/Steward Updates and Ongoing Maintenance

Ad.2 Year the measure was first released: 2007

Ad.3 Month and Year of most recent revision: 06, 2011

Ad.4 What is your frequency for review/update of this measure? Every 3 years or as new evidence becomes available that materially affects the measures.

Ad.5 When is the next scheduled review/update for this measure?

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Ad.7 Disclaimers:

Ad.8 Additional Information/Comments: The next scheduled review/update for this measure will be in 2014.