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Dialysis Facility Compare

Compare Quality Measures

Quality Measure Results for the selected dialysis facilities within 10 miles of ZIP Code 01201

If your search results show facilities in more than one state, the contact information and the quality measure state averages in the charts and graphs are for the state where the city or ZIP code you entered is located.

State sponsored insurance may not always allow you to choose a dialysis facility outside your state of residence. Please contact the dialysis facility directly if you have questions.

The quality measures are shown in the form of graphs. The displays include National and State averages for each quality measure. To view the graphs for each quality measure, click on one of the links below or show all quality measures by clicking "Show All." Before you look at the Quality Measures for the facilities you selected, please read the following information carefully.

What are quality measures?

The quality measures on this website are one way to tell how well facilities care for their patients. You can check on the care given at certain dialysis facilities by comparing their quality measures. The four quality measures on this site are:

- **Anemia (low red blood cell count)** - how many patients at a facility had an average hemoglobin less than 10.0 g/dL.***
- **Anemia (low red blood cell count)** - many patients at a facility had an average hemoglobin greater than 12.0 g/dL.
- **Hemodialysis Adequacy** - how many patients at a facility get their blood cleaned enough during dialysis treatments (URR 65% or greater).
- **Patient Survival** - if the patients treated at a facility generally live longer than, as long, or not as long as expected.

Why should you look at quality measures?

Dialysis facilities can vary in how well they care for their patients. The four measures listed above help you understand the care provided by a facility. After you look at the quality measures, you can click on the Resources Tab to find out more about good dialysis care.

The care that facilities provide can affect how you feel overall, and how long you survive. Looking at quality measures can:

- Help you understand which facilities are providing good care.
- Give you information about dialysis facilities to discuss with dialysis staff and your doctor.
- Help staff improve how well they care for you and others.

*****Note:** The hemoglobin <10 g/dL measure is provided for informational purposes only, and higher percentages may not be a reflection of poor care. Anemia management practices are expected to change due to new clinical evidence and labeling for the medications used to treat anemia.

Tips: You can print the quality measures. Feel free to take them with you and ask your doctor or dialysis staff about them.

Read all the information provided with the quality measure carefully. Some facilities may have higher or lower scores because of the types of patients they serve.

Percentage of Medicare patients who had an average hemoglobin less than 10.0 g/dL or greater than 12.0 g/dL in 2010

Why is Anemia Important to You?

Most patients with kidney failure have anemia (a low red blood cell count). Anemia is measured by a blood test to check the level of hemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen in red blood cells. It is

What Do These Graphs Show?

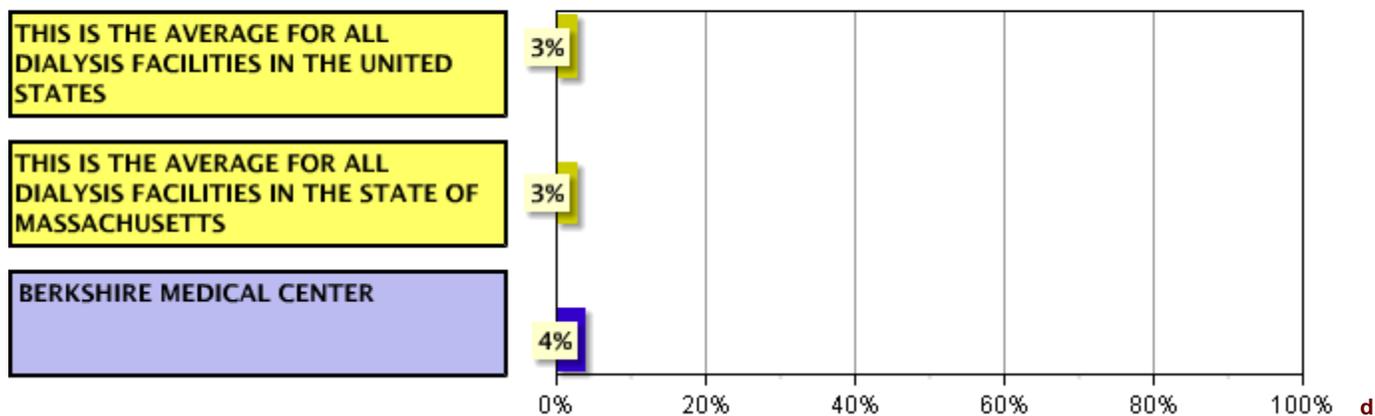
The first graph shows the percent of patients at each facility whose hemoglobin was less than 10.0 g/dL. The second graph shows the percent

important for the facility staff to consider the risks and benefits of different hemoglobin levels and anemia treatments for each patient.

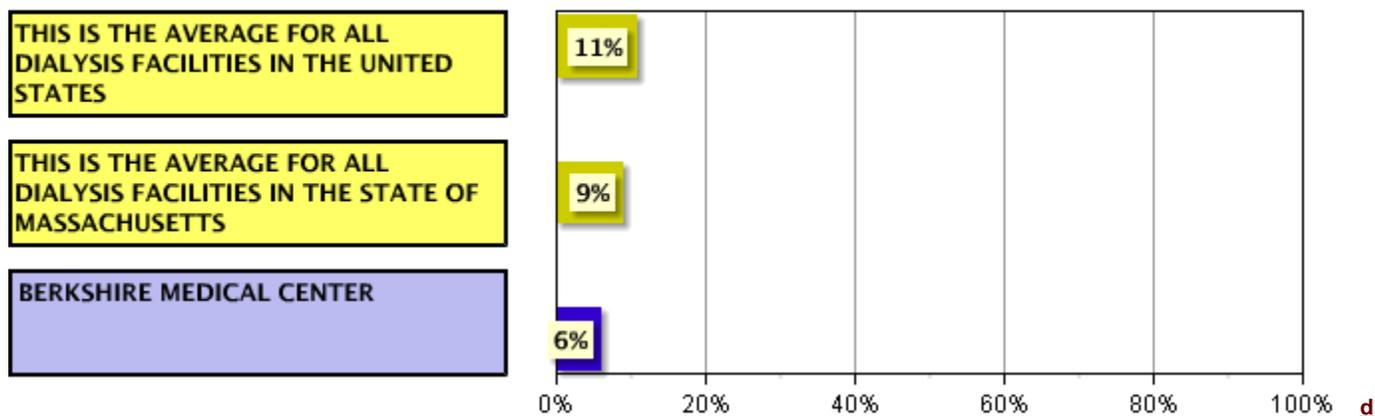
Note: The hemoglobin <10 g/dL measure is provided for informational purposes only, and higher percentages may not be a reflection of poor care. Anemia management practices are expected to change due to new clinical evidence and labeling for the medications used to treat anemia.

of patients at each facility whose hemoglobin was greater than 12.0 g/dL.

Graph 1 of 2: Percent of Medicare patients who had an average hemoglobin value less than 10.0 g/dL in 2010.***



Graph 2 of 2: Percent of Medicare patients who had an average hemoglobin value greater than 12.0 g/dL in 2010.



For more detail about this information, please look at the Glossary and Anemia Frequently Asked Questions.

*****Note:** The hemoglobin <10 g/dL measure is provided for informational purposes only, and higher percentages may not be a reflection of poor care. Anemia management practices are expected to change due to new clinical evidence and labeling for the medications used to treat anemia.

Percentage of Medicare patients who had enough wastes removed from their blood during dialysis (Dialysis Adequacy) in 2010

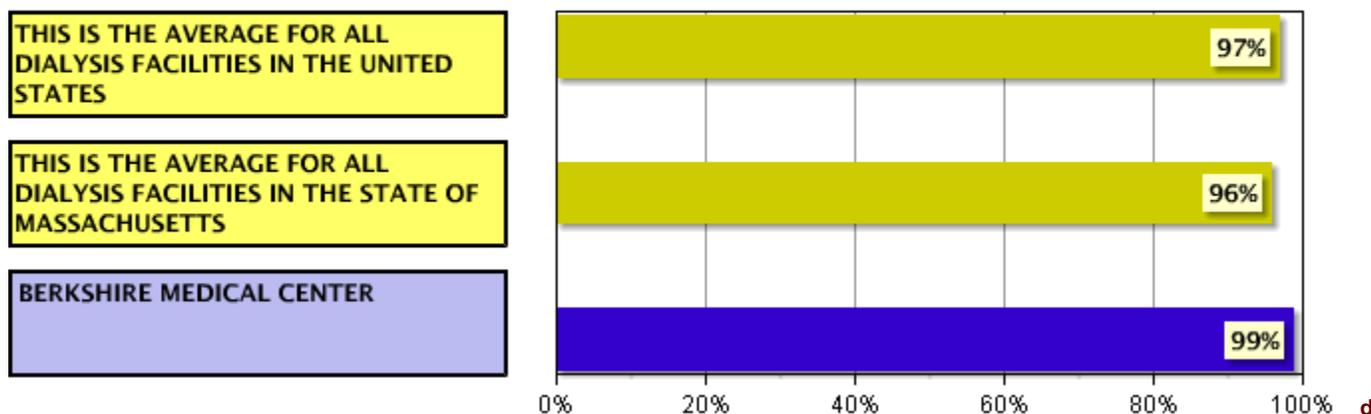
Why is Dialysis Adequacy Important to You?

- Patients with kidney failure need to have wastes removed from their blood often. Too much waste in your blood makes you sick. Dialysis is used to remove wastes from your blood.
- It is important for a facility to remove enough wastes from your blood during dialysis to help you feel better.
- A number known as the urea reduction ratio (URR) measures how much urea is removed during dialysis.
- The URR is a way to measure dialysis adequacy. Your URR should be 65 or greater.

What Does This Graph Show?

- This graph shows the percentage of patients at each facility who had enough wastes removed from their blood during dialysis, or who had a URR of 65 or more.
- Higher percentages mean that more patients at the facility had a URR of 65 or more.
- On the graphs, longer bars are better.

Percentage of Medicare patients who had enough wastes removed from their blood during dialysis (Dialysis Adequacy) in 2010



For more information, please look at the Glossary and Adequacy Questions and Answers.

Patient Survival for January 2007 to December 2010*

Why is Patient Survival Important to You?

- Generally, patients with kidney failure don't live as long as patients with normal kidneys.
- Many factors affect how long a dialysis patient lives. Some of these factors are under the control of the patient (like not skipping treatments), and some of these factors are under the control of the facility (like making sure patients get all the treatments the doctor prescribes).
- Patient survival lets you know if the patients treated at a certain dialysis facility generally live longer, as long, or not as long as expected.

What Does This Table Show?

- This information is in categories called Better than Expected (live longer than expected), As Expected, or Worse than Expected (don't live as long as expected).
- This information lets you compare patient survival at the facilities you selected. Use this information when you talk to your doctor or dialysis facility staff.
- Patient survival at a facility can be worse than expected due to a variety of reasons. For example, a facility may specialize in treating patients who are very ill and who may not live long; it does not always mean they are not providing good care.

Patient Survival for January 2007 to December 2010*

	Better Than Expected**	As Expected	Worse Than Expected**
Survival Categories for the 5134 facilities with available data in US	433	4155	546
Survival Categories for the 66 facilities with available data in Massachusetts	13	49	4
BERKSHIRE MEDICAL CENTER	✓		

*The most recent data available. If a facility was not open during this period, information will not be available on this Website. (Contact the facility for the most current information).

**Statistically better or worse than the "As Expected" survival category. For more detail about this information, please view the Patient Survival Frequently Asked Questions.

*****Note:** The hemoglobin <10 g/dL measure is provided for informational purposes only, and higher percentages may not be a reflection of poor care. Anemia management practices are expected to change due to new clinical evidence and labeling for the medications used to treat anemia.

Many things can affect how long a patient lives. For more detail about this information, please look at the Glossary and Patient Survival Frequently Asked Questions.

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