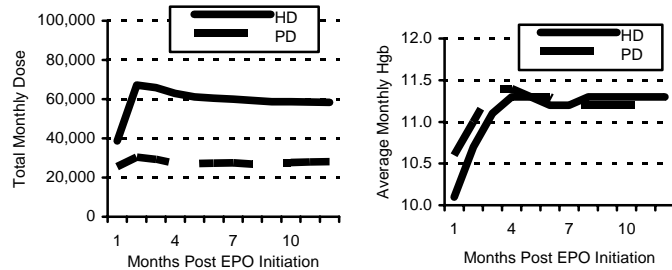


## DOQI Hemoglobin Targets and EPO Doses in HD and PD Patients.

Because of superior quality of life and survival associations, hemoglobin targets of 11 to 12 g/dl have been recommended in patients with chronic kidney disease. Erythropoetic agents, a cornerstone of management, are a major component of the cost of renal replacement therapy. The objective of this study was to compare hemoglobin and EPO dose patterns in HD and PD patients. Primary Medicare patients (1995 to 2000) over 65, who remained on their initial dialysis therapy for 6 months, were studied (N=128099). Total monthly EPO requirements and average monthly hemoglobin were calculated from Medicare claims.



Mean EPO requirements reached a plateau at 3 months in both groups. By then, the proportion of PD patients needing EPO had reached 25% in PD patients, compared to 80% in HD patients. Monthly EPO doses, however, plateaued at 30,000 in PD patients, compared to 60,000 in HD. Thus, for the overall population, total EPO doses at steady state were 6.4 ( $80/25 \times 60,000/30,000$ ) times higher in HD than in PD patients. Among subjects requiring EPO, hemoglobin target achievement was similar in PD and HD. EPO requirements to maintain recommended hemoglobin targets are much lower in PD patients.

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