



# Glossary



Some of these definitions have been taken from *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary* and from the *On-line Medical Dictionary* (<http://www.graylab.ac.uk/omd/index.html>).

#### **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**

Created in 1977 and formerly named the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), renamed in June 2001, this federal agency is responsible for the administration of the nation's largest healthcare programs, Medicare and Medicaid.

#### **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)**

Recognized as the lead federal agency for protecting the health and safety of people at home and abroad, and serves as the national focus for disease prevention by developing and applying programs designed to improve the health of the people of the United States.

#### **Chain provider**

A single business entity that owns 20 or more dialysis units located in more than one state. (This definition applies to all chain affiliation references in the USRDS's 2000-2002 annual data reports. An alternative definition from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services can be found under "definitions" in the Health Care Provider/Supplier Application Form CMS 855).

#### **Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD)**

Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis, a method of dialysis where dialysate is always present in the abdomen and is usually exchanged at least every two hours. Normal treatment length is 48-72 hours.

#### **Continuous cycler-assisted peritoneal dialysis (CCPD)**

Continuous cycler-assisted peritoneal dialysis, a method of dialysis where the patient is connected to a machine (cycler) ¾ usually at bedtime ¾ and dialysate in the patients abdomen is replaced with fresh dialysate 3-5 times during the night.

#### **Common Working File (CWF) System**

The Medicare Part A and Part B benefit coordination and claims validation system. Under the CWF, CMS maintains both institutional and physician supplier claims-level data. CWF claims records are the data source for most claims and utilization files used by the USRDS.

#### **Death Notification Form (CMS-2746)**

A form submitted following the death of an ESRD patient, and containing basic patient demographic information in addition to information on the primary cause of death.

#### **End-stage renal disease (ESRD)**

A condition in which an individual's kidney function is not adequate to support life.

#### **Erythropoietin (EPO)**

A hormone secreted chiefly by the adult kidney; acts on the bone marrow to stimulate red cell production.

#### **ESRD Facility Survey (CMS-2744)**

The End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Renal Facility Survey data are collected annually by CMS from all facilities certified to provide Medicare-covered renal dialysis and transplantation. The survey, which includes the entire United States, uses Form HCFA 2744 and encompasses the full calendar year. Geographical data are included to the level of ZIP code for the facility. Each record contains facility information and information on the number of patients served, the number of dialysis treatments provided and the number of kidney transplants performed. The data includes services to both Medicare and non-Medicare patients.

#### **For-profit facility**

A dialysis facility which is owned, leased or through any other devices, controlled by a single business entity.

#### **Freestanding facility**

A dialysis facility licensed to provide only outpatient and home maintenance dialysis; sometimes referred to as an independent unit.

#### **Health Care Financing Administration**

Created in 1977, this federal agency is responsible for the administration of the nation's largest healthcare programs, Medicare and Medicaid. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), was renamed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in June 2001.

#### **Hospital-based facility**

A dialysis facility attached to or located in a hospital and licensed to provide outpatient dialysis services directly to ESRD patients.

#### **Incident patient**

A patient starting renal replacement therapy for end-stage renal disease during the calendar year. This definition excludes persons with acute renal failure, persons with chronic renal failure who die before receiving treatment for ESRD, and persons whose ESRD treatments are not reported through CMS.

#### **Medical Evidence Form (CMS-2728)**

A form which provides source data about ESRD patients, including information on patient demographics, primary cause of renal disease, comorbidity, laboratory values, dialysis treatment, transplant, dialysis training, employment status, and initial insurance coverage.

#### **National Claims History (NCH) 100% Nearline File**

A file which contains all Common Working File (CWF) Part A (provider) and Part B (physician/supplier) Medicare claims and adjusted claims information.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

The federal focal point for medical research in the United States and one of eight health agencies of the Public Health Services which in turn is part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Period prevalent patient**

A patient receiving treatment for ESRD at some point during a period of time, usually six months or a year. Patients may die during the period or be point prevalent at the end of the period.

**Peritoneal dialysis**

A type of dialysis in which fluid (dialysate) is introduced into the abdominal cavity and uremic toxins are removed across the peritoneum.

**Point prevalent patient**

A patient reported as receiving treatment for ESRD on a particular day of the calendar year (i.e. December 31st).

**Program Medical Management and Information System for ESRD and Renal Beneficiary and Utilization System / Program (PMMIS/REBUS)**

The major source of data for the USRDS. This CMS file incorporates data from the Medical Evidence Form (CMS-2728), the Death Notification Form (CMS-2746), the Medicare Enrollment Database, CMS Paid Claims Records, and the UNOS Transplant Database.

**Prevalent patient**

A patient receiving renal replacement therapy or having a functioning kidney transplant (regardless of when the transplant was performed). This definition excludes persons with acute renal failure, persons with chronic renal failure who die before receiving treatment for ESRD, and persons whose ESRD treatments are not reported through CMS.

**Reuse**

A process through which a hemodialyzer is cleaned and disinfected, allowing it to be used multiple times on the same patient.

**Standard Analysis Files (SAFs)**

CMS files which contain final action Medicare Part A claims data. SAFs are comprised of eight files: Inpatient, Outpatient, Home Health Agency, Hospice, Skilled Nursing Facility, Clinical Laboratory, Durable Medical Equipment, and 5% Sample Beneficiary.

**Standardized hospitalization ratio (SHR)**

Used to compare hospitalization rates for a selected group of patients by computing the ratio of the group's observed hospitalization rate to the expected hospitalization rate for the national ESRD population.

**Standardized mortality ratio (SMR)**

Used to compare dialysis patient mortality rates from year to year. Mortality rates for a subgroup of patients are compared to a set of reference rates, with adjustments for age, race, gender, and diabetes as a cause of ESRD.

**Standardized transplantation ratio (STR)**

Used to compare the transplant rate of a sub-group of patients to the national transplant rate.

**Statistical Analysis System (SAS)**

A SAS® format was chosen for the USRDS SAFs because it is widely used, easily transported, and largely self-documenting. SAS® is a commercially available data management and statistical analysis software system that runs on most computers, from mainframes to PCs, and it is almost universally available on university computer systems. The USRDS SAFs take full advantage of the program's ability to incorporate a large amount of documentation into the file.

**Transplant center**

A hospital unit licensed to provide transplantation and other medical and surgical specialty services for the care of kidney transplant patients, including inpatient dialysis furnished directly or under arrangement.

**United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)**

A private, non-profit organization that maintains the organ transplant list for the nation and coordinates the matching and distribution of organs to patients awaiting transplant.

**Wait-list**

A list, maintained by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), of patients awaiting an organ transplant.