

<b>Title</b>	<b>Association between achievement of haemodialysis quality-of-care indicators and quality-of-life scores</b>	
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<b>Introduction</b>	In HD patients incremental achievement of quality goals has been associated with better improvement of mortality and hospitalization risks. This study investigated the association of achievement of 5 quality goals and quality of life (QoL) in HD patients.	
<b>Material and Methods</b>	33 879 HD patients treated at FMC centres in North America for > 90d had completed the Short-Form Health Survey domain score (SF-36) during 2006. This score comprises 36 questions from 8 domains regarding QoL and includes the Physical Component Summary (PCS) and Mental Component Summary (MCS). The 5 quality goals were: alb: $\geq 4.0$ g/dL, Hb: 11-12 g/dL, eKt/V $\geq 1.2$ , P: 3.5 – 5.5 mg/L, absence of HD catheter.	
<b>Results</b>	Mean age of the patients was $61.5 \pm 14.8$ years, with 54% white, 47% women, 55% with diabetes, mean vintage of $\sim 3.7$ y. Incremental achievement of up to 5 goals was associated with progressively higher PCS and MCS. Compared to patients meeting all 5 goals (n = 4208) following case-mix-adjustment, the score was decreasing according to the following table:	
	<b><u>PCS</u></b>	<b><u>MCS</u></b>
reaching 4 goals:	1.8 points lower	1.0 point lower, n = 11 785
reaching 3 goals:	3.4 points lower	1.7 points lower, n = 10 906
reaching 2 goals:	4.9 points lower	2.3 points lower, n = 5 119
reaching 1 goal:	5.9 points lower	3.0 points lower, n = 1 592
reaching 0 goals:	7.8 points lower	4.7 points lower, n = 269
	Achievement of goals for albumin, eKt/V, and access type were individually associated with the highest domain scores, significant at $p < 0.001$ for all 8 domains.	
	Patients with Hb < 11 g/dL had significantly lower PCS and MCS than the reference group of Hb 11-12 g/dL, however, PCS increased slightly in patients with Hb > 12 g/dL. MCS increased slightly in patients with Hb 12 – 13 g/dL and then decreased slightly in patients with Hb > 13 g/dL.	
<b>Conclusion</b>	Incremental achievement of up to 5 goals was associated with progressively higher QoL scores.	