

CBE 2979: Standardized Transfusion Ratio for Dialysis Facilities

6.2.4 Progress on Improvement

6.2.4 [If maintenance review OR 6.1.1 Current Status = In Use] Progress on Improvement*

Discuss any progress on improvement (trends in performance results, including performance across subpopulations if available, number and percentage of people receiving high quality health care, geographic area, number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included). If use of the measure demonstrated no improvement, provide an explanation.

Trends in ESRD dialysis patient national transfusion rates are shown in the Table and Figure below. Please note that trend analysis was only available for Medicare FFS patients as Medicare outpatient encounter data has been only recently been made available for use. Since MA patients have generally comprised 10% or less of the Medicare chronic dialysis population until recently, these trends are very likely representative of per capita blood transfusion rates over the years 2010-2023. In 2010, the transfusion event rate was 0.29 per patient year. After revision of the FDA Prescribing Information and almost simultaneously, implementation of the expanded Medicare ESRD Prospective Payment System (ESRD PPS), which included ESA payment in the dialysis facility capitated payment system for chronic dialysis, achieved hemoglobin began to fall precipitously (not shown here) and per capitata transfusion event rates began increasing. Introduction of the STrR in 2015 and subsequent CBE endorsement in 2016 was temporally associated with a decline in per capita transfusion events to well-below 2010 levels. Likely, several factors were at play, given the downward transfusion rate trajectory evident by 2015-16, but the transfusion event rates in 2019-2022 (excluding 2020 during COVID) are approximately 25% lower than in 2010.

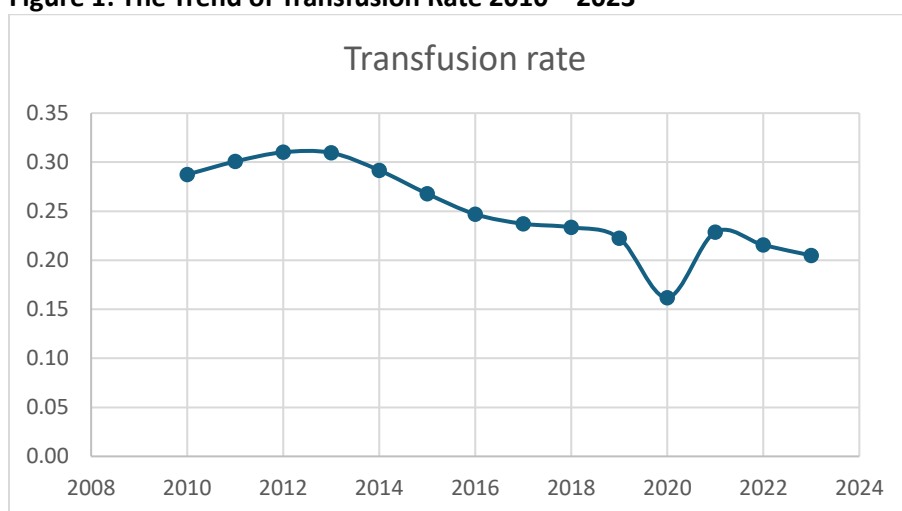
Table 1: The Trend of Transfusion Rate 2010 – 2023

Year	N of eligible patients	N of transfusion events	Transfusion rate
2010	366,277	105,275	0.29
2011	341,000	102,536	0.30
2012	347,309	107,706	0.31
2013	358,834	111,085	0.31
2014	367,604	107,246	0.29
2015	373,004	99,904	0.27
2016	333,173	82,282	0.25
2017	335,895	79,678	0.24
2018	333,811	77,976	0.23

Year	N of eligible patients	N of transfusion events	Transfusion rate
2019	335,901	74,754	0.22
2020*	311,433	50,427	0.16
2021	262,932	60,128	0.23
2022	225,524	48,606	0.22
2023	199,634	40,904	0.20

*Transfusion summaries in year 2020 exclude data from March through June 2020 from all calculations.

Figure 1: The Trend of Transfusion Rate 2010 – 2023



*Transfusion summaries in year 2020 exclude data from March through June 2020 from all calculations.